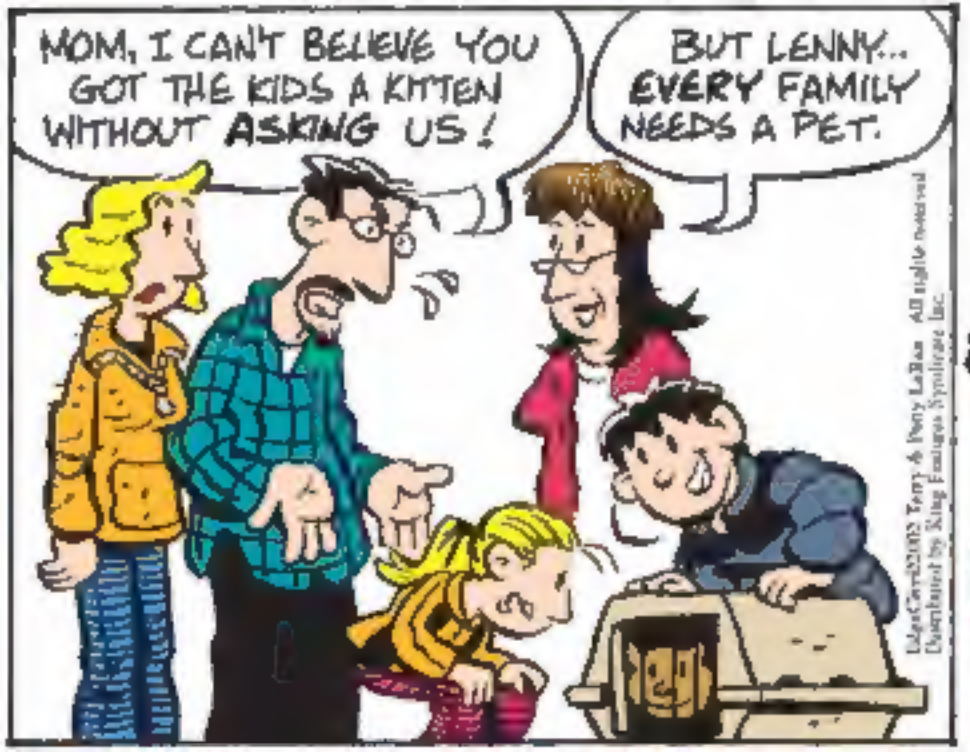
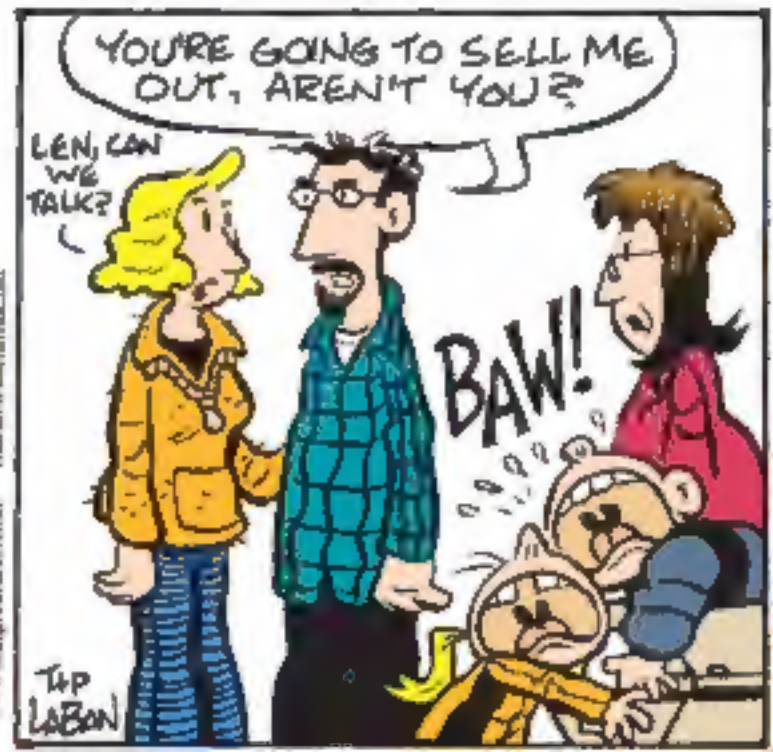
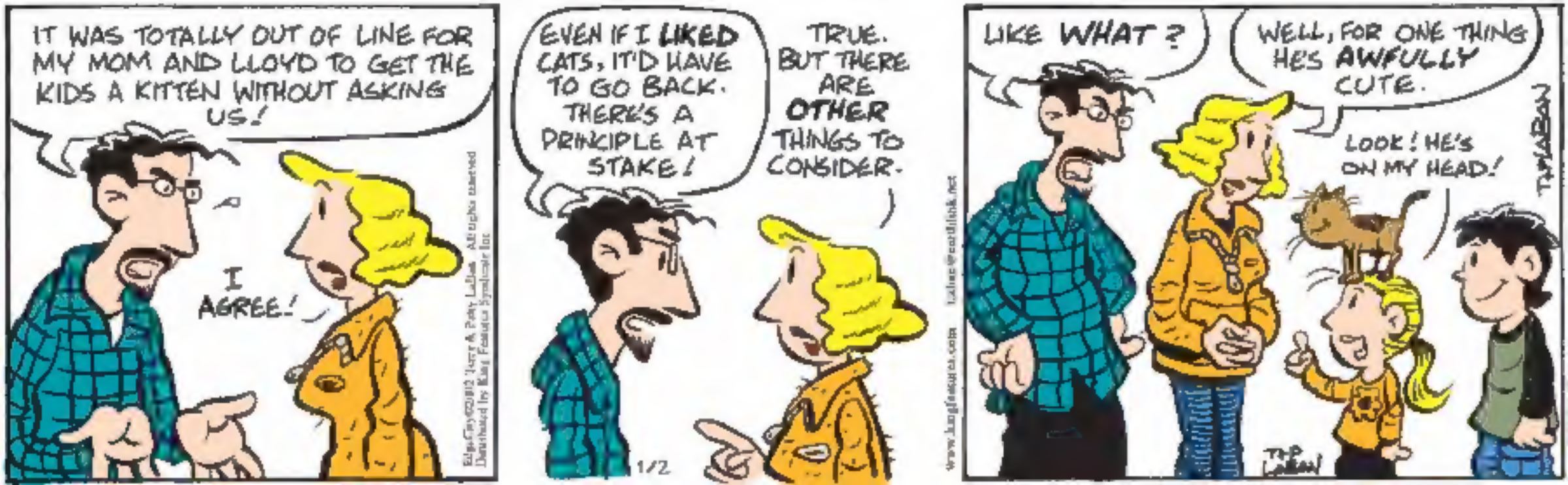
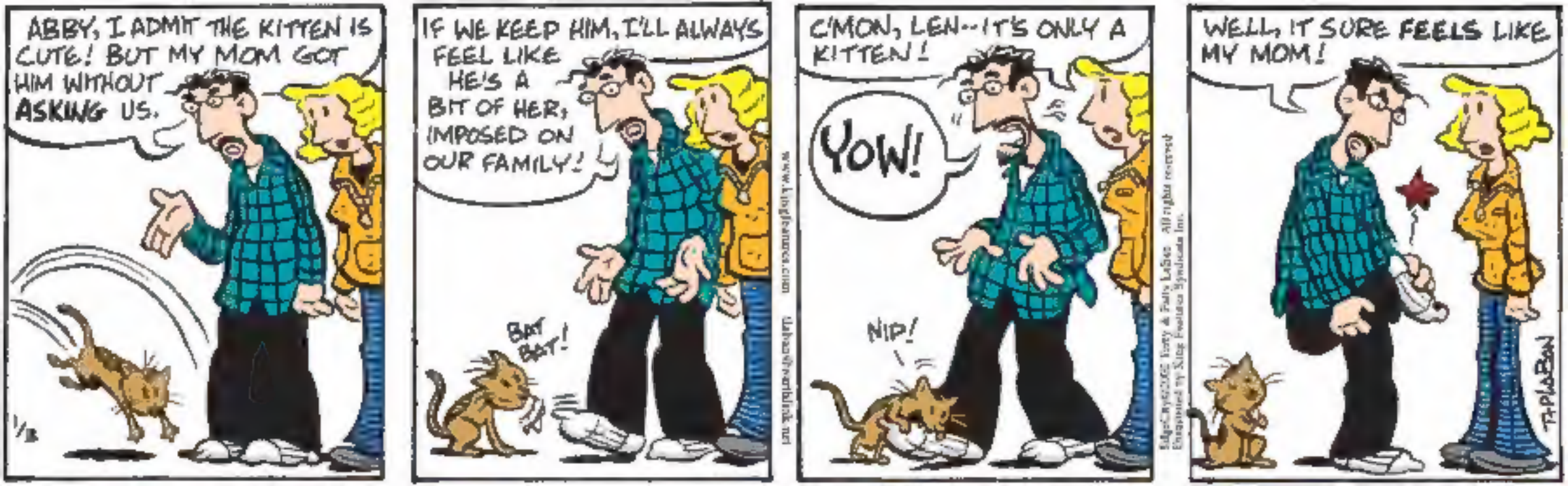
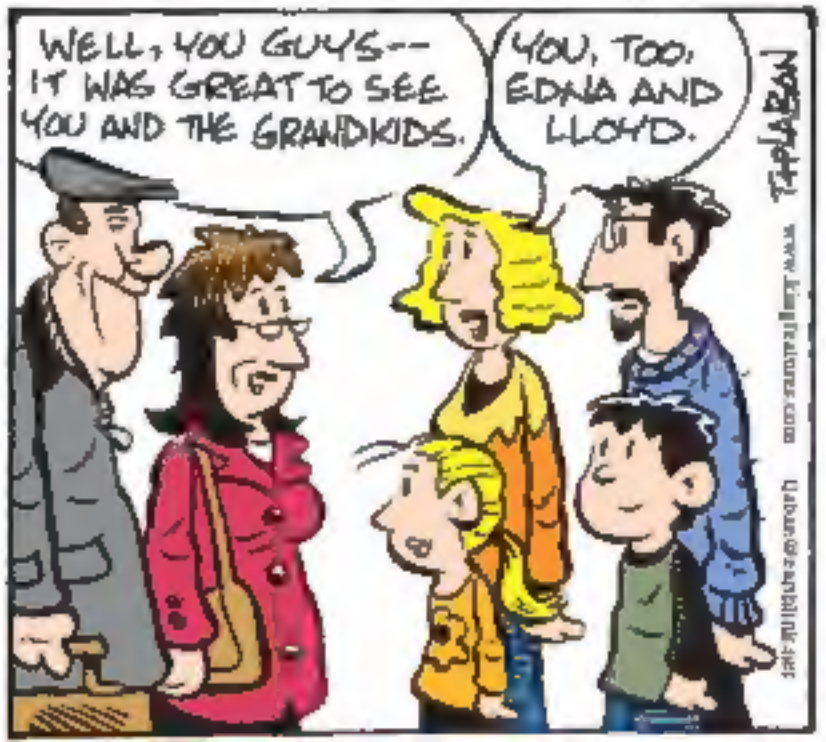

MOM, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT THE KIDS A KITTEN WITHOUT ASKING US!
BUT LENNY... EVERY FAMILY NEEDS A PET.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME FOR A PET, EVEN IF WE WANTED ONE. YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK! RIGHT, ABBY?
ABBY?
1/1


YOU'RE GOING TO SELL ME OUT, AREN'T YOU?
LEN, CAN WE TALK?
BAW!
TIP LABON


IT WAS TOTALLY OUT OF LINE FOR MY MOM AND LLOYD TO GET THE KIDS A KITTEN WITHOUT ASKING US!
I AGREE!
EVEN IF I LIKED CATS, IT'D HAVE TO GO BACK. THERE'S A PRINCIPLE AT STAKE!
TRUE. BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER.
1/2
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, FOR ONE THING HE'S AWFULLY CUTE.
LOOK! HE'S ON MY HEAD!


ABBY, I ADMIT THE KITTEN IS CUTE! BUT MY MOM GOT HIM WITHOUT ASKING US.
IF WE KEEP HIM, I'LL ALWAYS FEEL LIKE HE'S A BIT OF HER, IMPOSED ON OUR FAMILY!
BAT BAT!
C'MON, LEN--IT'S ONLY A KITTEN!
YOW!
NIP!
WELL, IT SURE FEELS LIKE MY MOM!



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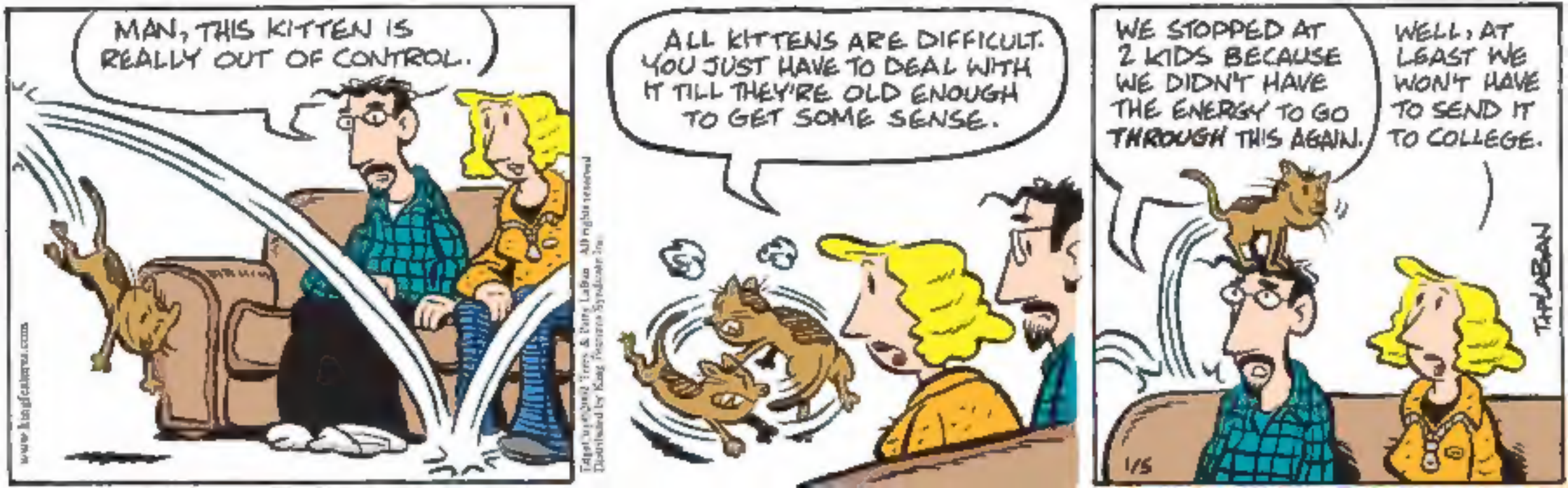
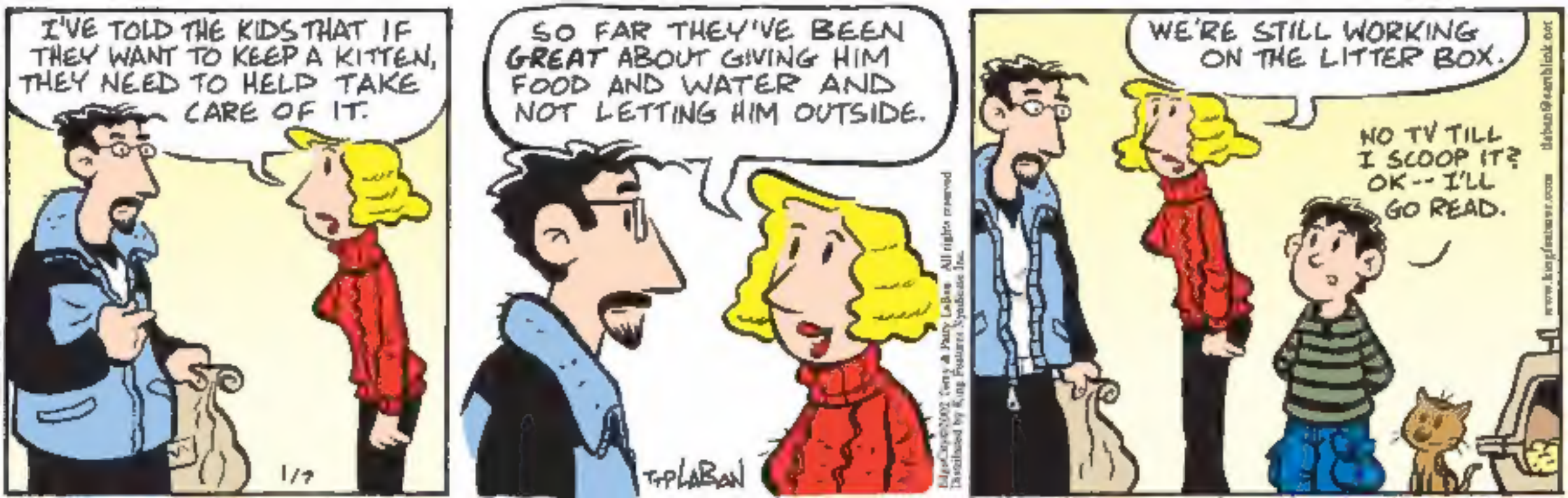
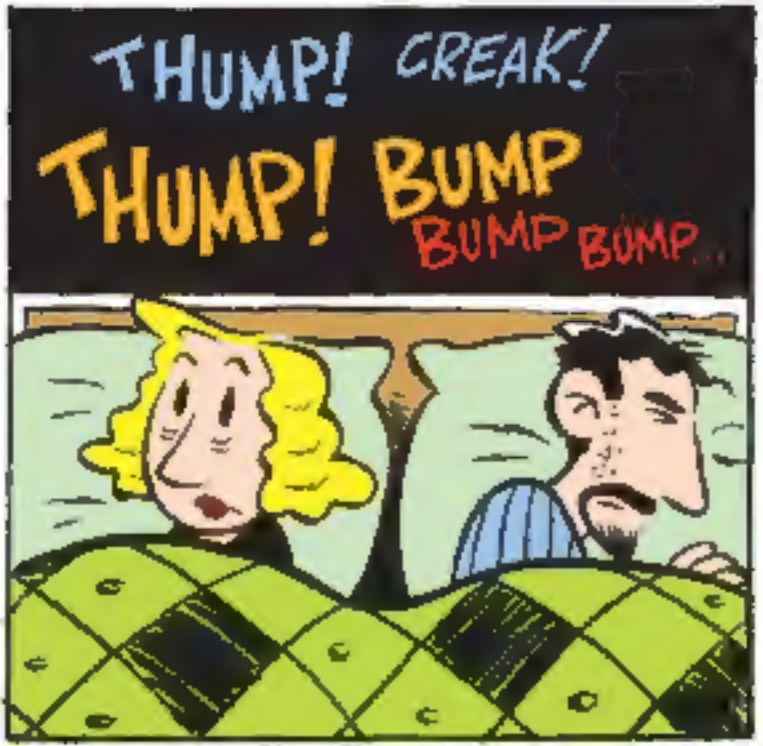
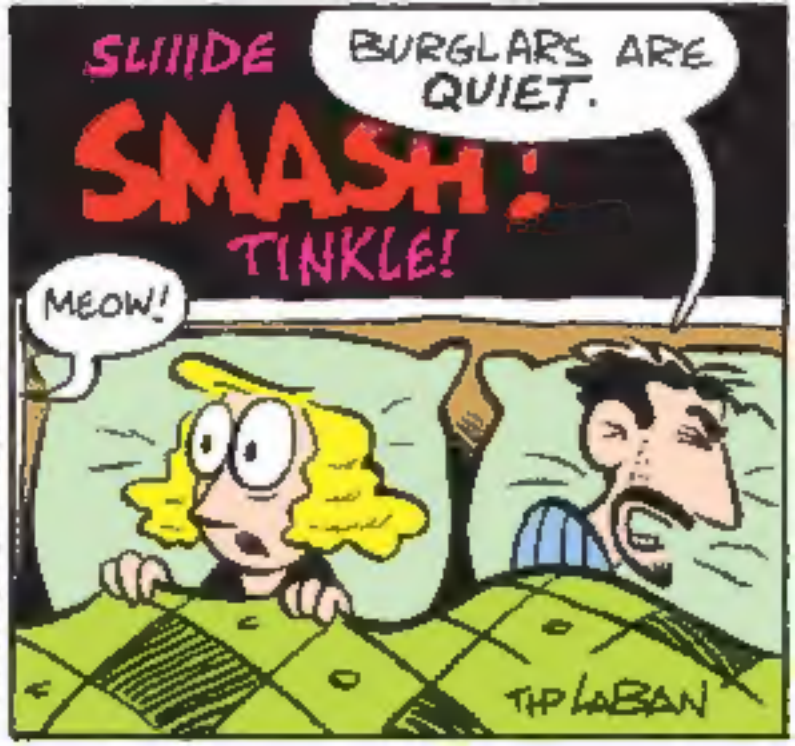

MAN, THIS KITTEN IS REALLY OUT OF CONTROL.
ALL KITTENS ARE DIFFICULT. YOU JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT TILL THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO GET SOME SENSE.
WE STOPPED AT 2 KIDS BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN.
WELL, AT LEAST WE WON'T HAVE TO SEND IT TO COLLEGE.
THALABAN
1/5

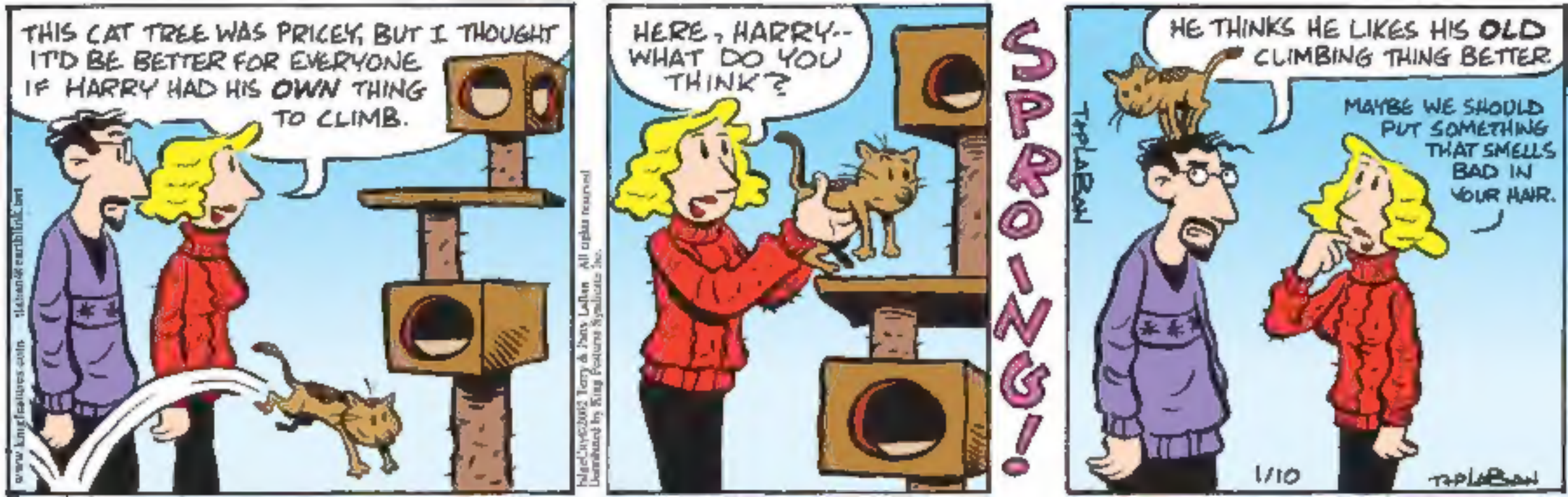

I'VE TOLD THE KIDS THAT IF THEY WANT TO KEEP A KITTEN, THEY NEED TO HELP TAKE CARE OF IT.
1/7
SO FAR THEY'VE BEEN GREAT ABOUT GIVING HIM FOOD AND WATER AND NOT LETTING HIM OUTSIDE.
T+P LaBan
WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THE LITTER BOX.
NO TV TILL I SCOOP IT? OK -- I'LL GO READ.

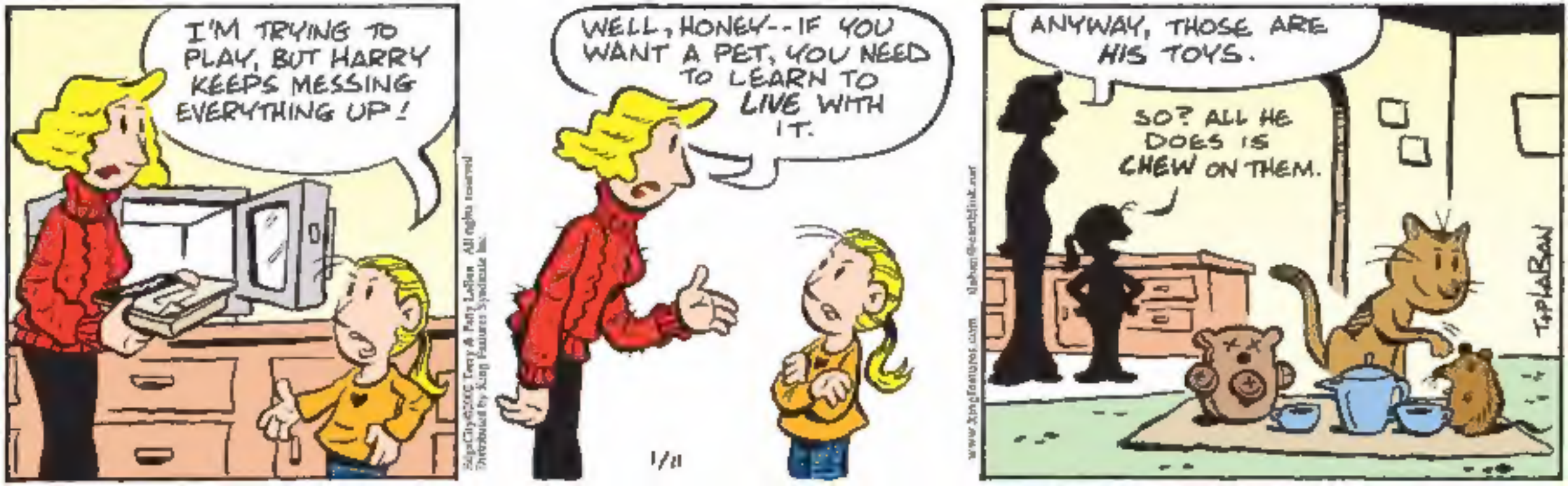
WE'RE TRYING TO THINK OF A NAME FOR THE CAT.
1/8
WELL...YOU CAN NAME HIM FOR A QUALITY HE HAS, LIKE "SPUNKY," OR SOMETHING HE DOES, LIKE "BOUNCER".
HMM...
THE CAT'S NAME IS "HARRY," HUH? AFTER HARRY POTTER?
NO--IT'S SHORT FOR "HAIRBALL"!
HOOPA! HOOPA!
TERRY LABAN


THUMP! CREAK!
THUMP! BUMP
BUMP BUMP...

I CAN'T SLEEP! EVERY TIME THE KITTEN MAKES NOISE, I THINK IT'S A BURGLAR!
RELAX--
1/9


SLIIIDE
BURGLARS ARE QUIET.
SMASH!
TINKLE!
MEOW!
THP LaBAN


THIS CAT TREE WAS PRICEY, BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF HARRY HAD HIS OWN THING TO CLIMB.
HERE, HARRY-- WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SPROING!
HE THINKS HE LIKES HIS OLD CLIMBING THING BETTER.
MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT SOMETHING THAT SMELLS BAD IN YOUR HAIR.
1/10
TRPLABAN


I'M TRYING TO PLAY, BUT HARRY KEEPS MESSING EVERYTHING UP!
WELL, HONEY--IF YOU WANT A PET, YOU NEED TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.
1/11
ANYWAY, THOSE ARE HIS TOYS.
SO? ALL HE DOES IS CHEW ON THEM.
TapLaRan

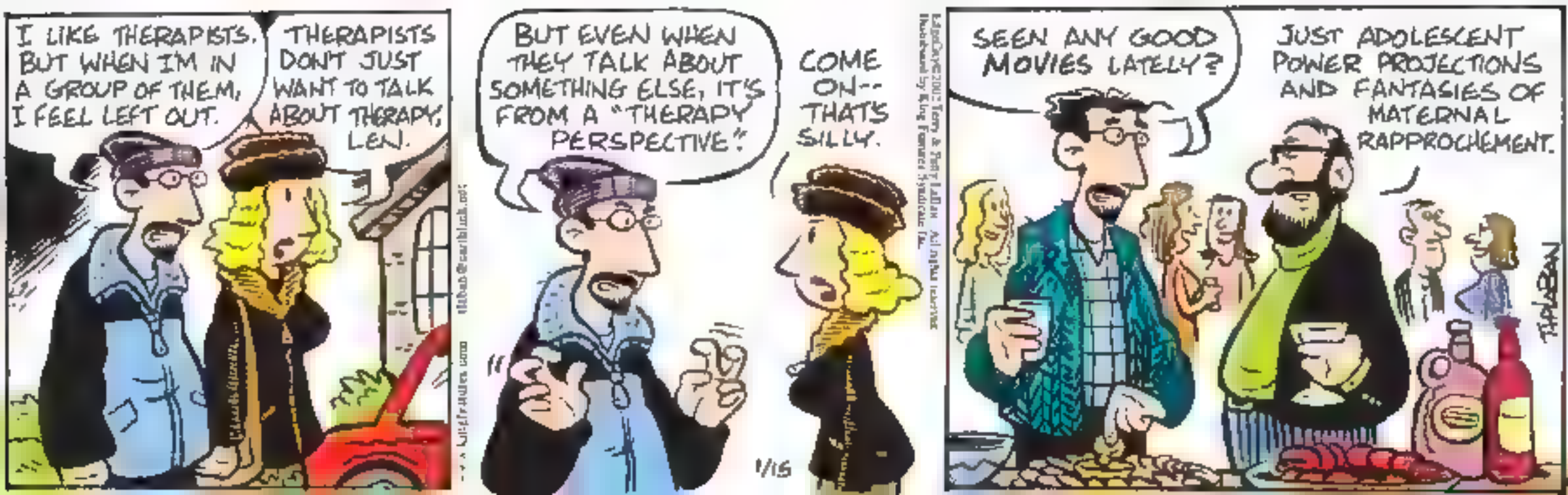
SHOO!

HEH!
BAT! BAT!

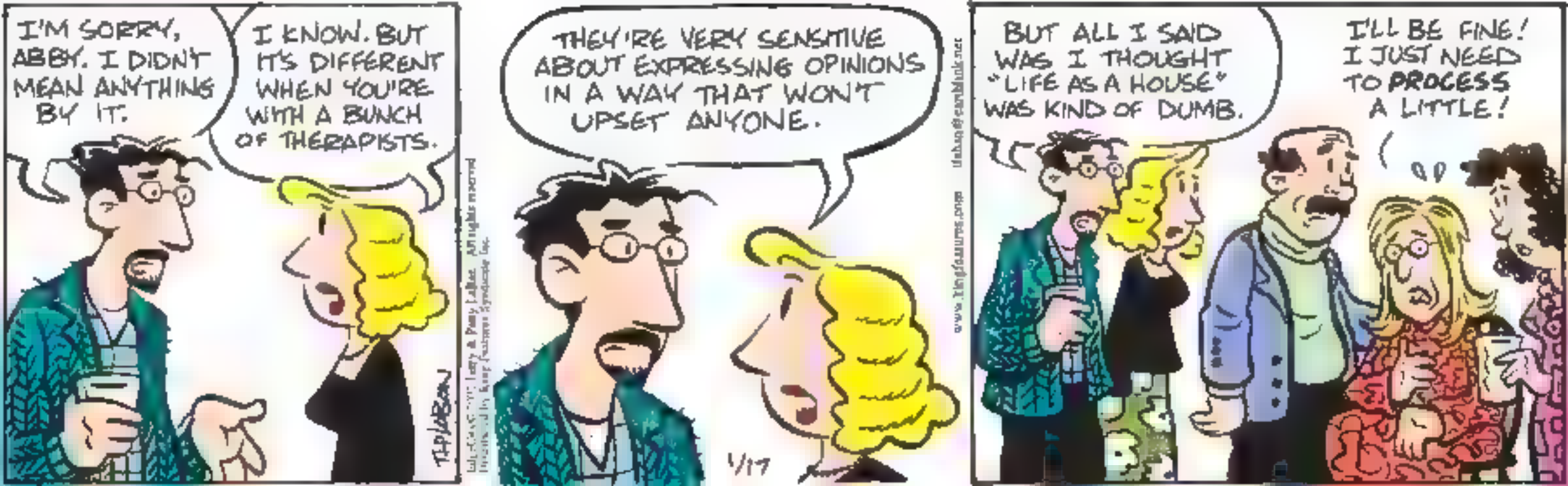
PURRR PURRR
1/12

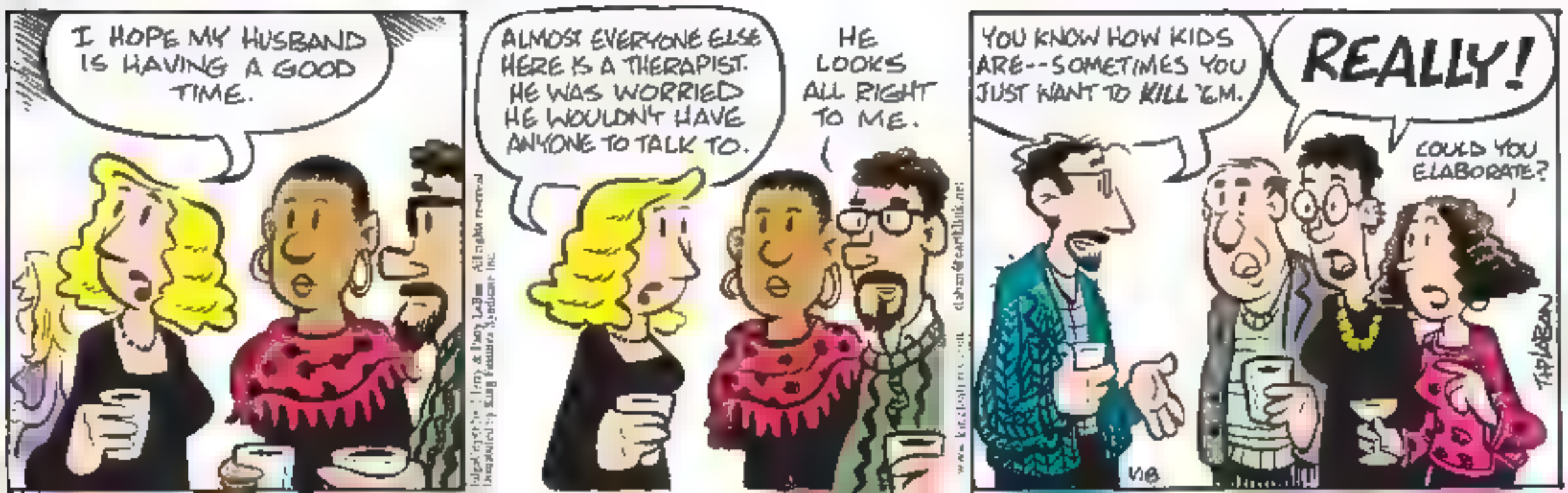
DID YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF GOING STEADY WITH SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T STAND?
PURR! PURR!
THPLABON

LEN, IT'S ABBY. DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE GET-TOGETHER AT THE KIEF'S SATURDAY.
GREAT. EVERYONE THERE WILL BE A THERAPIST.
YOU'LL ALL BE TALKING SHOP AND I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. THERE'S LOTS YOU CAN TALK ABOUT.
SUCH AS?
THERE'S THE DIFFICULTY YOU'VE HAD BONDING WITH YOUR MOM...
TAPLABAN 1/14

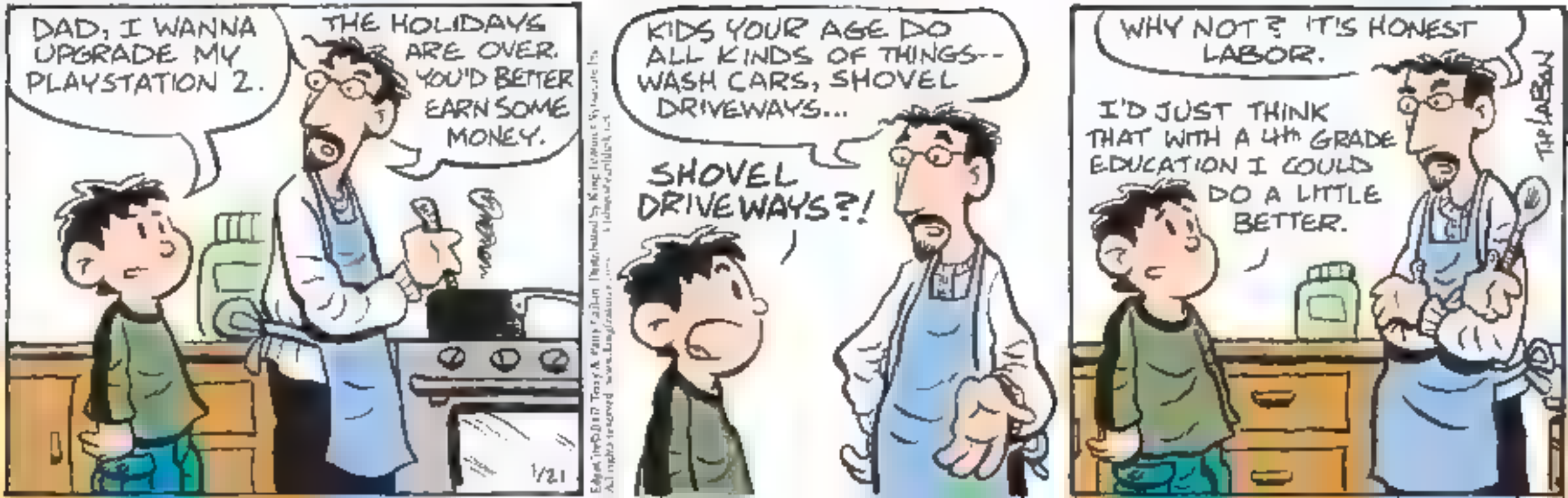

I LIKE THERAPISTS. BUT WHEN I'M IN A GROUP OF THEM, I FEEL LEFT OUT.
THERAPISTS DON'T JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT THERAPY, LEN.
BUT EVEN WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, IT'S FROM A "THERAPY PERSPECTIVE".
COME ON-- THAT'S SILLY.
1/15
SEEN ANY GOOD MOVIES LATELY?
JUST ADOLESCENT POWER PROJECTIONS AND FANTASIES OF MATERNAL RAPPROCHEMENT.
THABEN

THIS IS MAY'S HUSBAND, CHARLES. HE'S A MATH PROFESSOR.
LEN ARDIN.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
1/16
I GOTTA SAY, IT'S NICE TO MEET SOMEONE AT THIS PARTY WHO ISN'T A THERAPIST!
SO--HOW ABOUT THOSE BEARS?
WELL, IF TYSON IS "X", AND URLACHER IS "Y", AND THE OPPOSING DEFENSE ■ A VARIABLE OF 6...
TARABAY


I'M SORRY, ABBY. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
I KNOW. BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE WITH A BUNCH OF THERAPISTS.
THEY'RE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT EXPRESSING OPINIONS IN A WAY THAT WON'T UPSET ANYONE.
BUT ALL I SAID WAS I THOUGHT "LIFE AS A HOUSE" WAS KIND OF DUMB.
I'LL BE FINE! I JUST NEED TO PROCESS A LITTLE!
TRIBURN
1/17


I HOPE MY HUSBAND IS HAVING A GOOD TIME.
ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE HERE IS A THERAPIST. HE WAS WORRIED HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO.
HE LOOKS ALL RIGHT TO ME.
YOU KNOW HOW KIDS ARE--SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANT TO KILL 'EM.
REALLY!
COULD YOU ELABORATE?

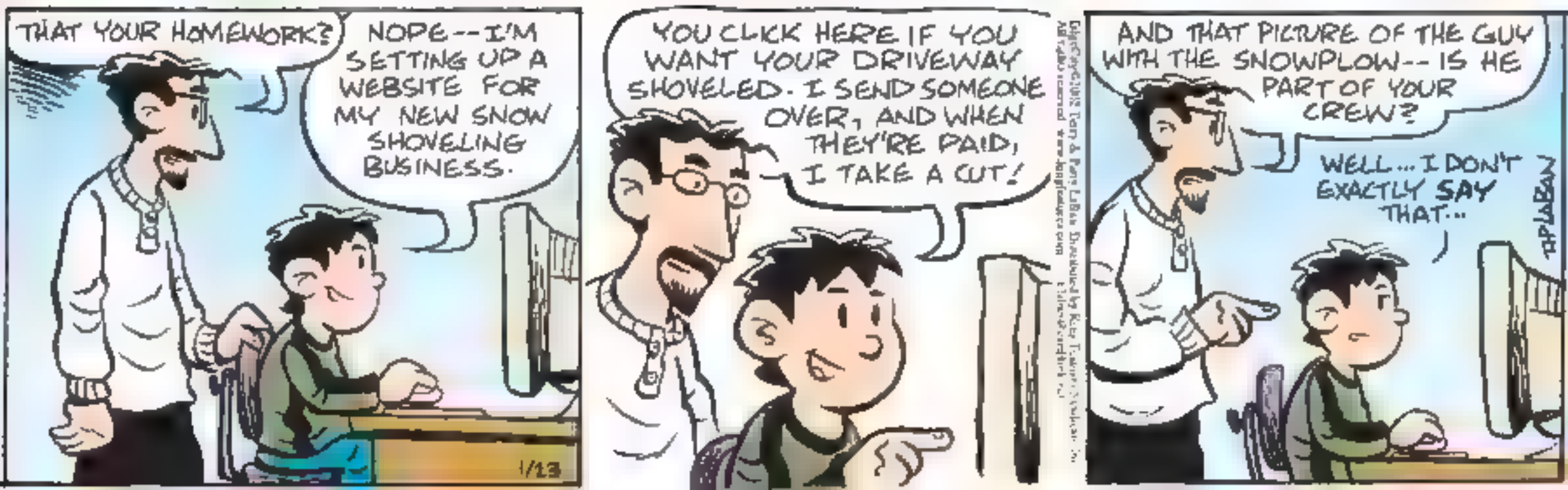
I DON'T USUALLY LIKE PARTIES WHERE EVERYONE ELSE IS A THERAPIST. BUT I'VE ENDED UP HAVING FUN.
I'M GLAD, LEN.
BUT I'M KIND OF CURIOUS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.
NOTHING UNUSUAL. WHY?
1/19
BECAUSE PEOPLE KEEP SLIPPING ME THEIR CARDS AND TELLING ME THEIR OFFICE HOURS!
IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY, CALL ME AT HOME!

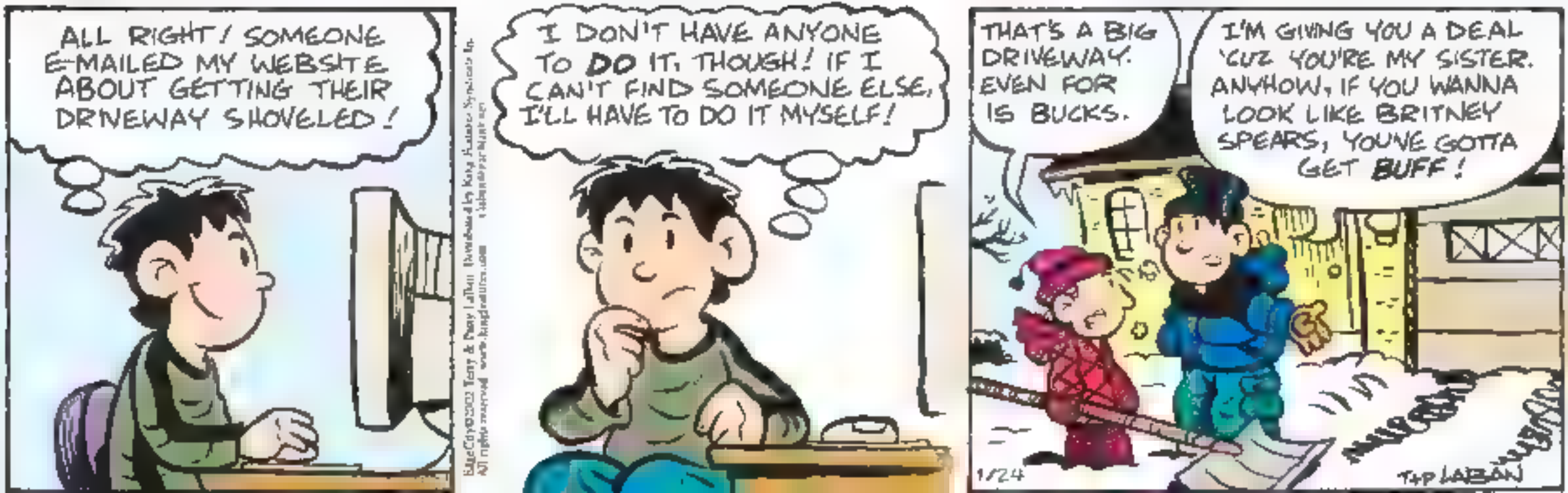

DAD, I WANNA UPGRADE MY PLAYSTATION 2.
THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER. YOU'D BETTER EARN SOME MONEY.
1/21
KIDS YOUR AGE DO ALL KINDS OF THINGS-- WASH CARS, SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS...
SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS?!
WHY NOT? IT'S HONEST LABOR.
I'D JUST THINK THAT WITH A 4th GRADE EDUCATION I COULD DO A LITTLE BETTER.
THE LABAN

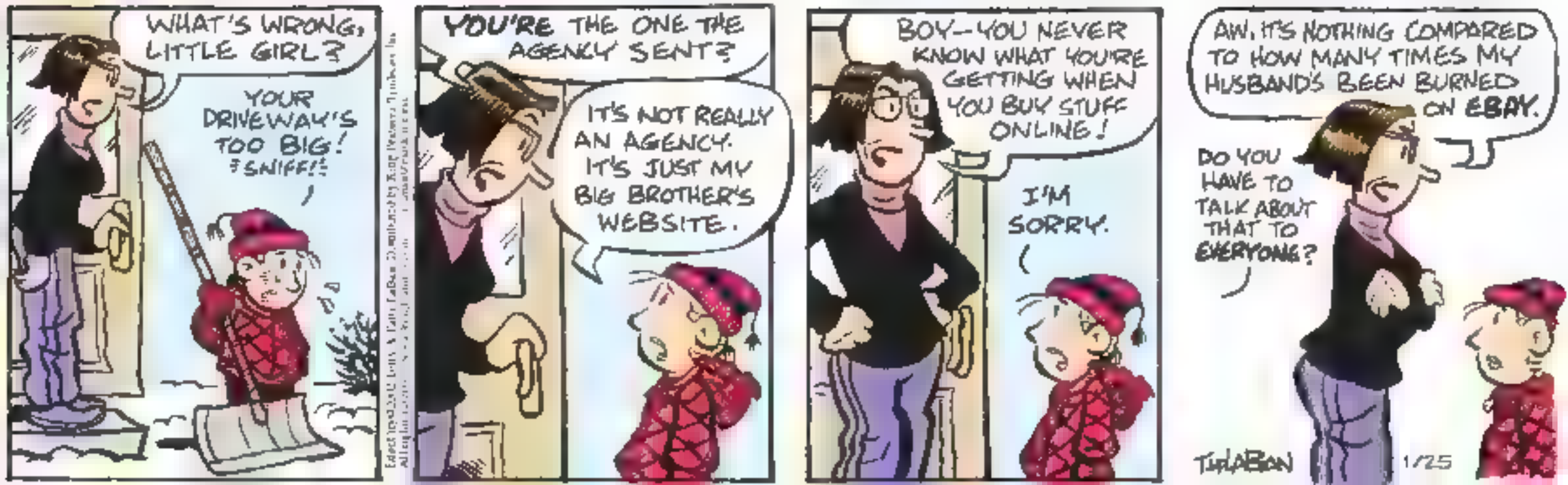
AT 15 BUCKS A JOB, IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME FOREVER TO MAKE WHAT I NEED TO UPGRADE MY PLAYSTATION 2.
1/22

THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY! IT'S STUPID TO WORK THIS HARD FOR SO LITTLE.

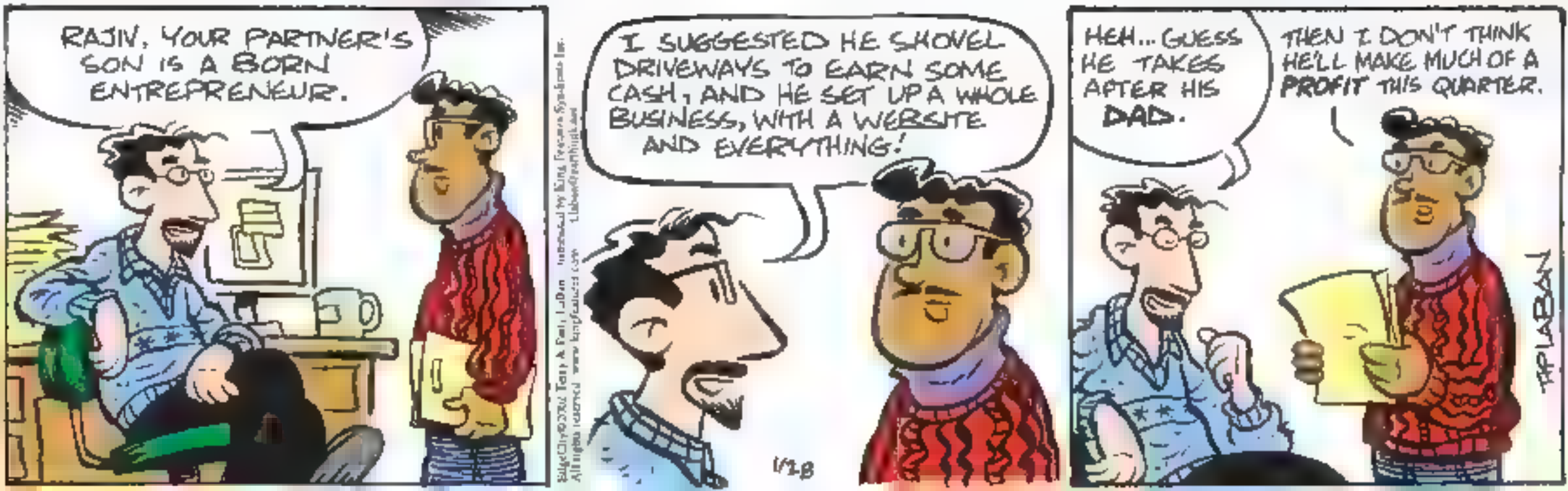
NOTE TO SELF: HIRE STUPID PEOPLE.
TAPLABAN

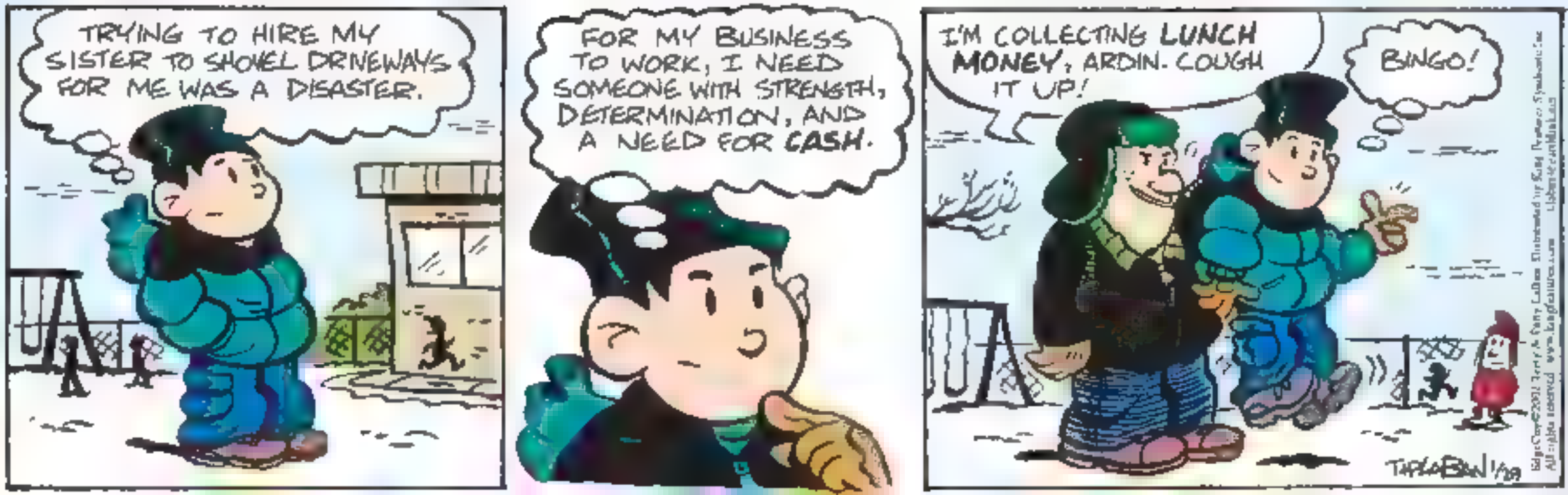

THAT YOUR HOMEWORK?
NOPE--I'M SETTING UP A WEBSITE FOR MY NEW SNOW SHOVELING BUSINESS.
1/13
YOU CLICK HERE IF YOU WANT YOUR DRIVEWAY SHOVELED. I SEND SOMEONE OVER, AND WHEN THEY'RE PAID, I TAKE A CUT!
AND THAT PICTURE OF THE GUY WITH THE SNOWPLOW-- IS HE PART OF YOUR CREW?
WELL... I DON'T EXACTLY SAY THAT...

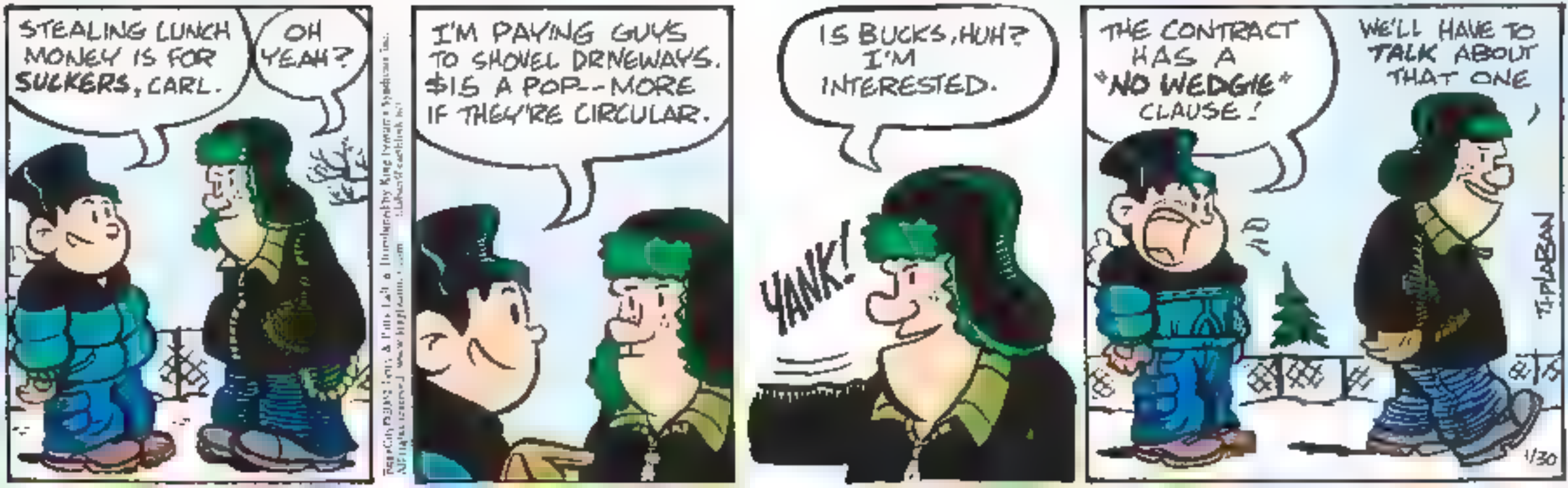

ALL RIGHT! SOMEONE E-MAILED MY WEBSITE ABOUT GETTING THEIR DRIVEWAY SHOVELED!
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO DO IT, THOUGH! IF I CAN'T FIND SOMEONE ELSE, I'LL HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF!
THAT'S A BIG DRIVEWAY. EVEN FOR 15 BUCKS.
I'M GIVING YOU A DEAL 'CUZ YOU'RE MY SISTER. ANYHOW, IF YOU WANNA LOOK LIKE BRITNEY SPEARS, YOU'VE GOTTA GET BUFF!
1/24
T&P LABAN

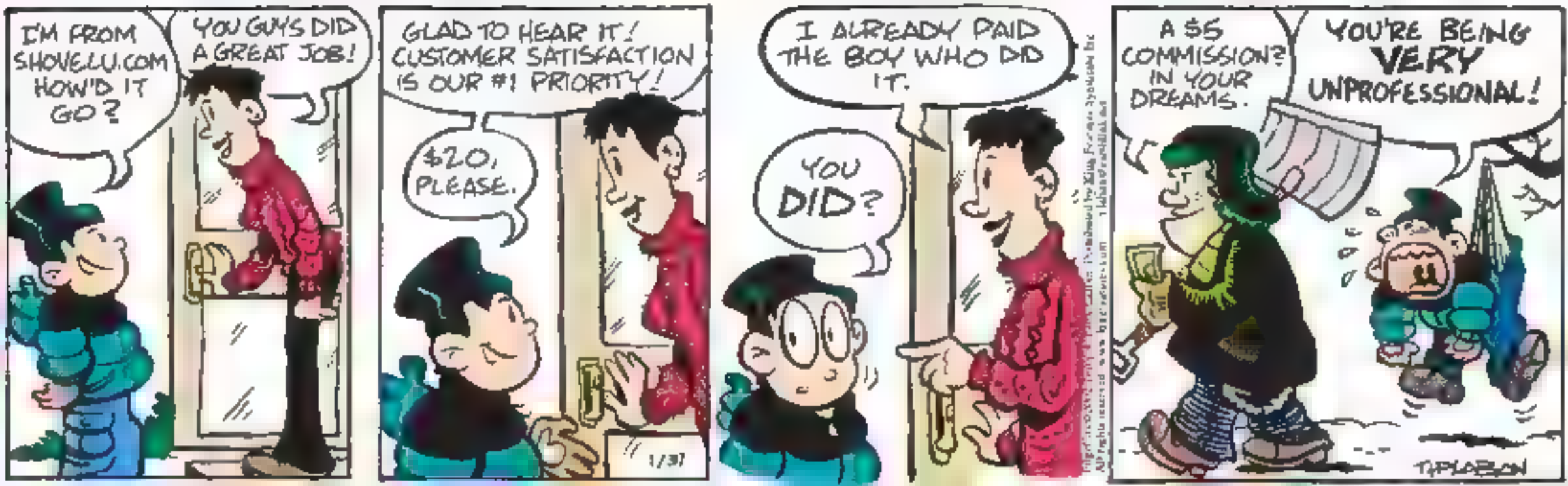

WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE GIRL?
YOUR DRIVEWAY'S TOO BIG! SNIFF!
YOU'RE THE ONE THE AGENCY SENT?
IT'S NOT REALLY AN AGENCY. IT'S JUST MY BIG BROTHER'S WEBSITE.
BOY—YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING WHEN YOU BUY STUFF ONLINE!
I'M SORRY.
AW, IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW MANY TIMES MY HUSBAND'S BEEN BURNED ON EBAY.
DO YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT TO EVERYONE?
TIFLABON
1/25

IT'S FINE TO SET UP A BUSINESS, COLIN. BUT NOT TO TRY AND MAKE YOUR SISTER DO THE WORK!
YOU ACTUALLY EXPECTED HER TO SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS AND GIVE YOU HALF THE MONEY? WHAT KIND OF DEAL IS THAT?
GOOD ENOUGH THAT SHE WANTS TO DO IT AGAIN.
WHEN THEY SAW ME CRYING, THEY GAVE ME HOT COCOA AND LET ME WATCH TV!
TMPLaBon

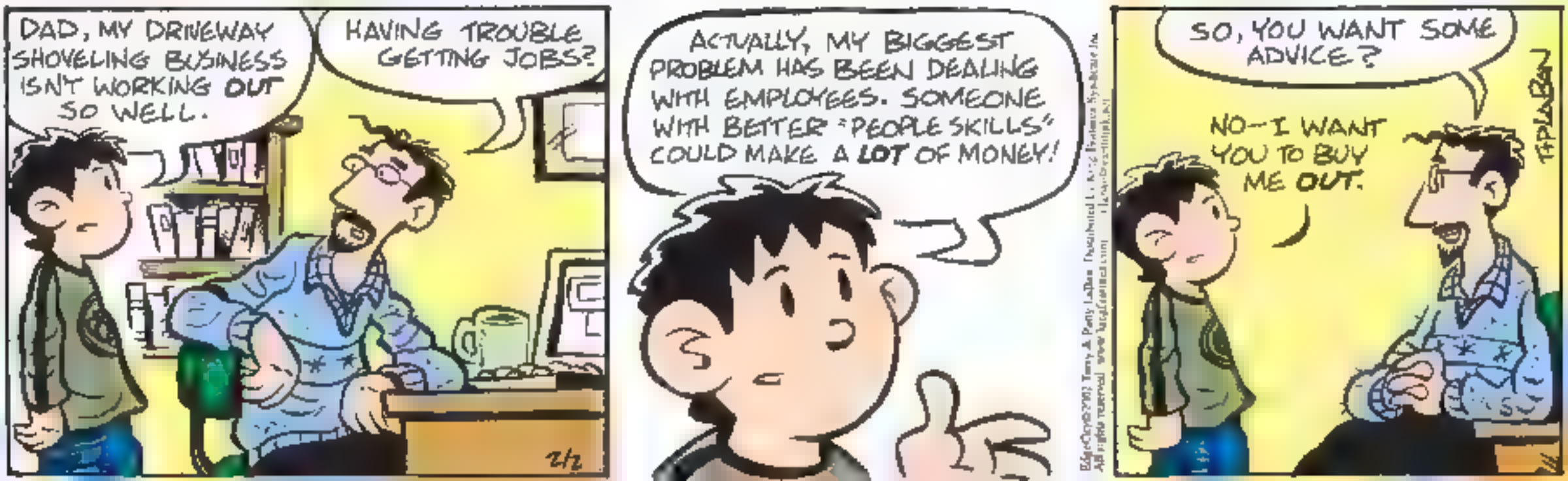

RAJIV, YOUR PARTNER'S SON IS A BORN ENTREPRENEUR.
I SUGGESTED HE SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS TO EARN SOME CASH, AND HE SET UP A WHOLE BUSINESS, WITH A WEBSITE AND EVERYTHING!
1/18
HEH... GUESS HE TAKES AFTER HIS DAD.
THEN I DON'T THINK HE'LL MAKE MUCH OF A PROFIT THIS QUARTER.
TIP LABAN

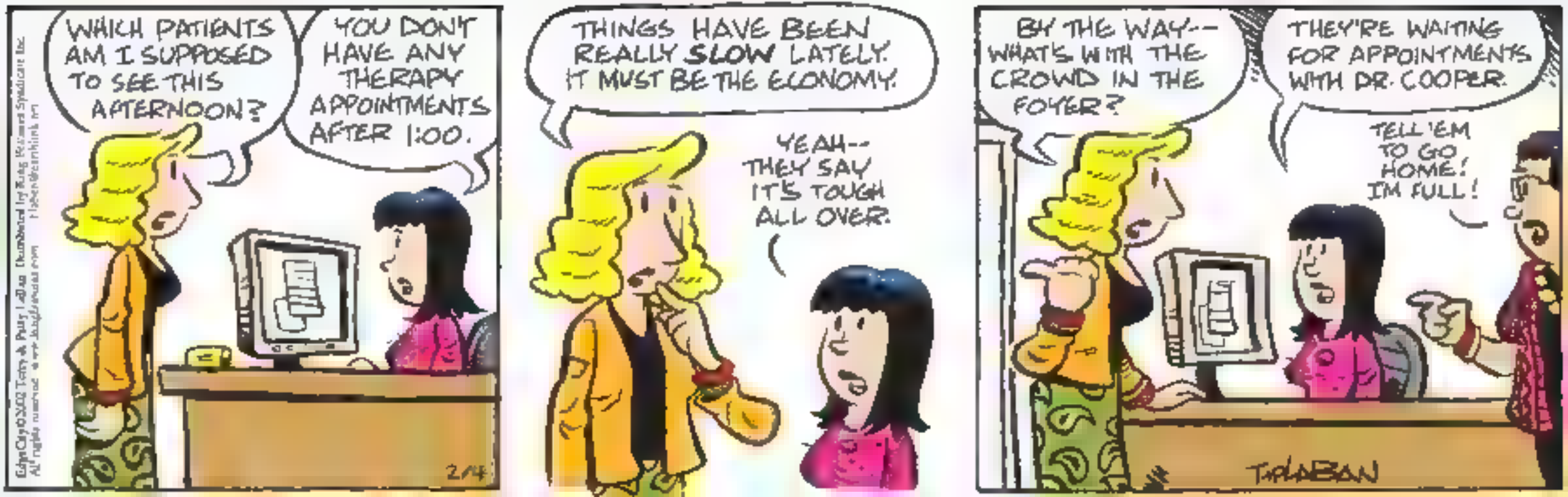

TRYING TO HIRE MY SISTER TO SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS FOR ME WAS A DISASTER.
FOR MY BUSINESS TO WORK, I NEED SOMEONE WITH STRENGTH, DETERMINATION, AND A NEED FOR CASH.
I'M COLLECTING LUNCH MONEY, ARDIN. COUGH IT UP!
BINGO!
TAPLA BIN 1/09

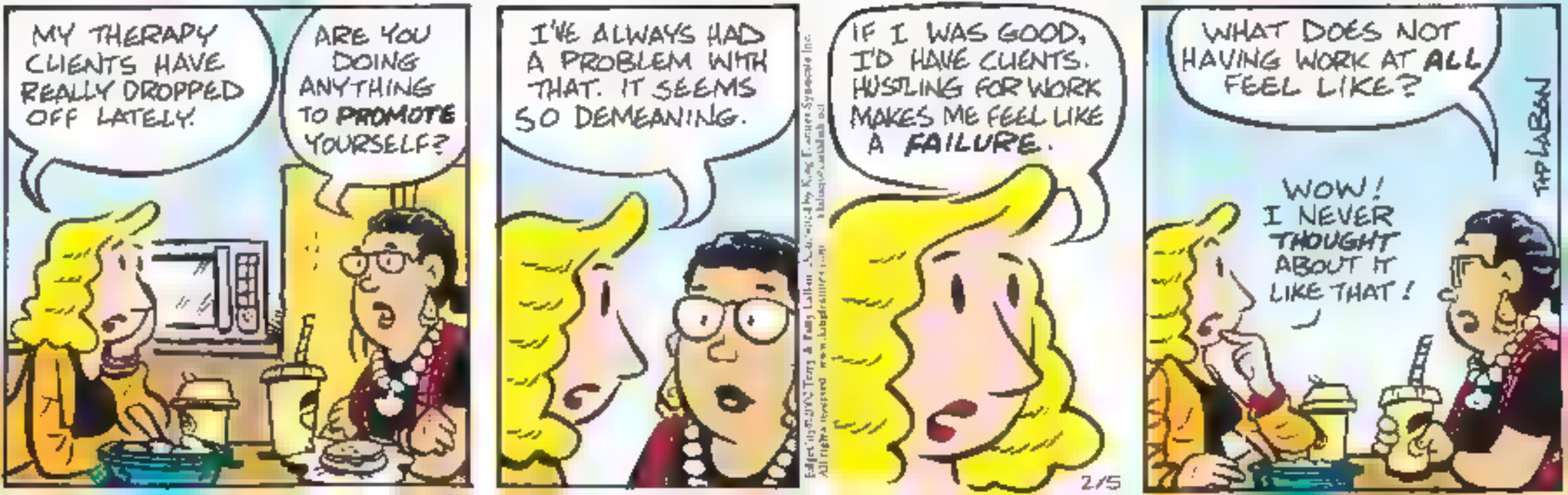

STEALING LUNCH MONEY IS FOR SUCKERS, CARL.
OH YEAH?
I'M PAYING GUYS TO SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS. $15 A POP--MORE IF THEY'RE CIRCULAR.
15 BUCKS, HUH? I'M INTERESTED.
YANK!
THE CONTRACT HAS A "NO WEDGIE" CLAUSE!
WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT ONE
TIPLADAN
1/30

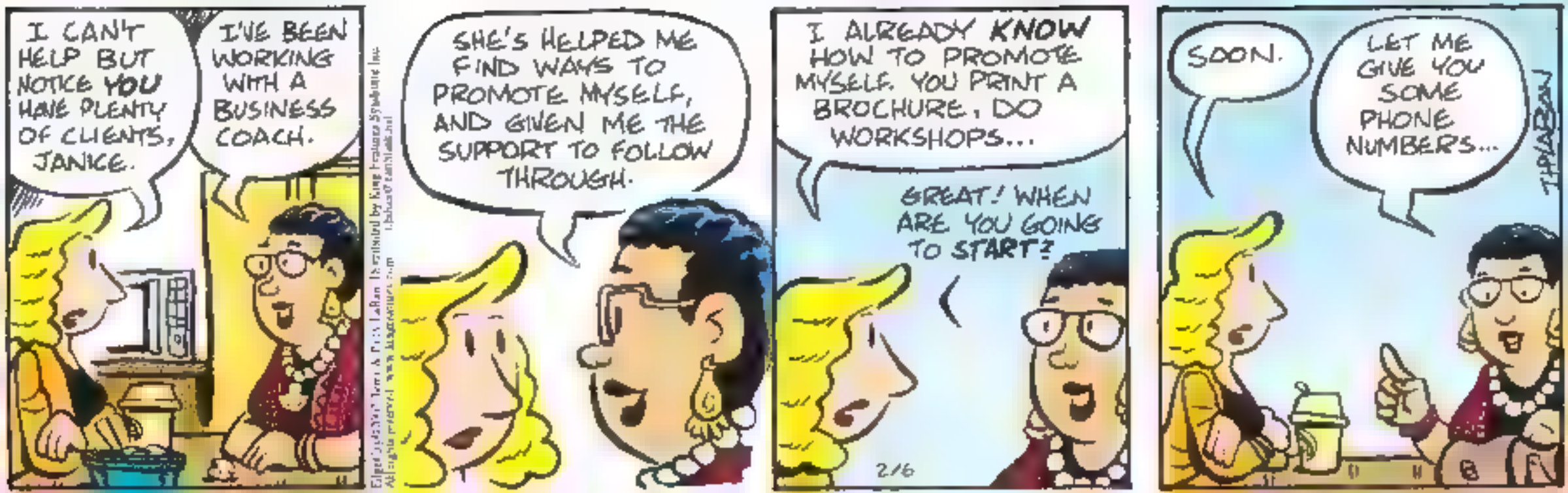

I'M FROM SHOVELU.COM HOW'D IT GO?
YOU GUYS DID A GREAT JOB!
GLAD TO HEAR IT! CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY!
$20, PLEASE.
1/31
I ALREADY PAID THE BOY WHO DID IT.
YOU DID?
A $5 COMMISSION? IN YOUR DREAMS.
YOU'RE BEING VERY UNPROFESSIONAL!
TAYLOR

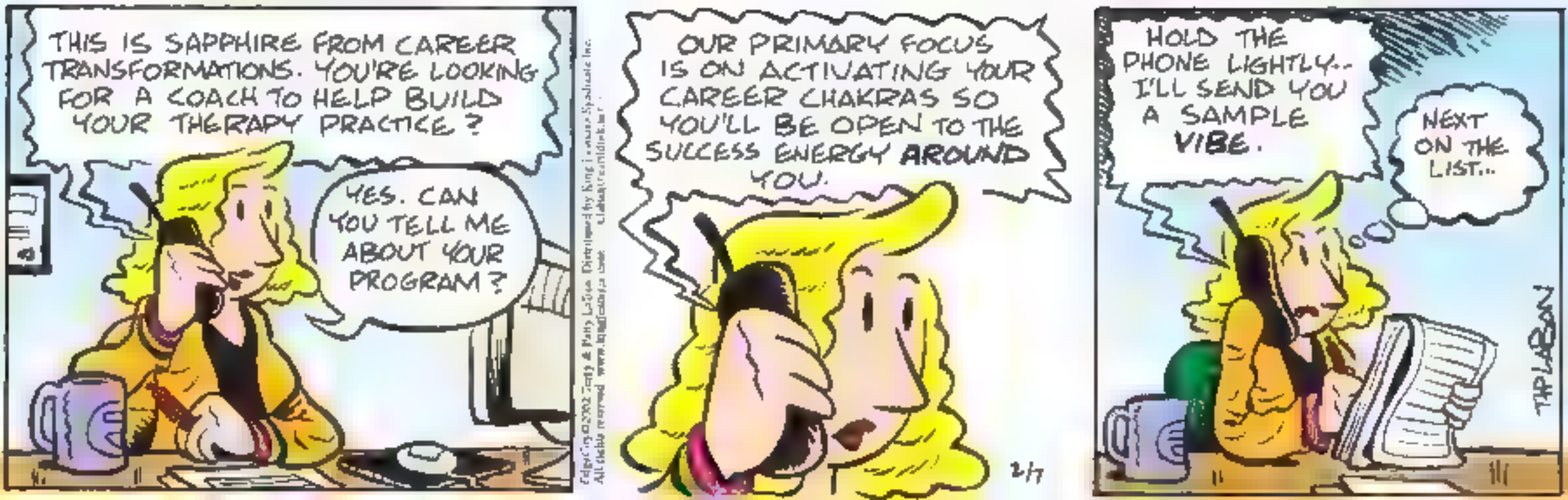
LOOK, ARDIN—IF THE LADY WANTS TO PAY ME $20, I'M NOT TURNIN' IT DOWN!
YOU AGREED TO SHOVEL THE DRIVE FOR $15! I GET $5 FOR GETTING YOU THE JOB!
WE HAD A DEAL! YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP IT!
WHO'S GONNA STOP ME?
MY DAD'LL SUE YOUR DAD!
GO ON-- MY DAD'S A LAWYER.
THPLABAN
2/1


DAD, MY DRIVEWAY SHOVELING BUSINESS ISN'T WORKING OUT SO WELL.
HAVING TROUBLE GETTING JOBS?
2/2
ACTUALLY, MY BIGGEST PROBLEM HAS BEEN DEALING WITH EMPLOYEES. SOMEONE WITH BETTER "PEOPLE SKILLS" COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY!
SO, YOU WANT SOME ADVICE?
NO—I WANT YOU TO BUY ME OUT.
TRIPLADEN

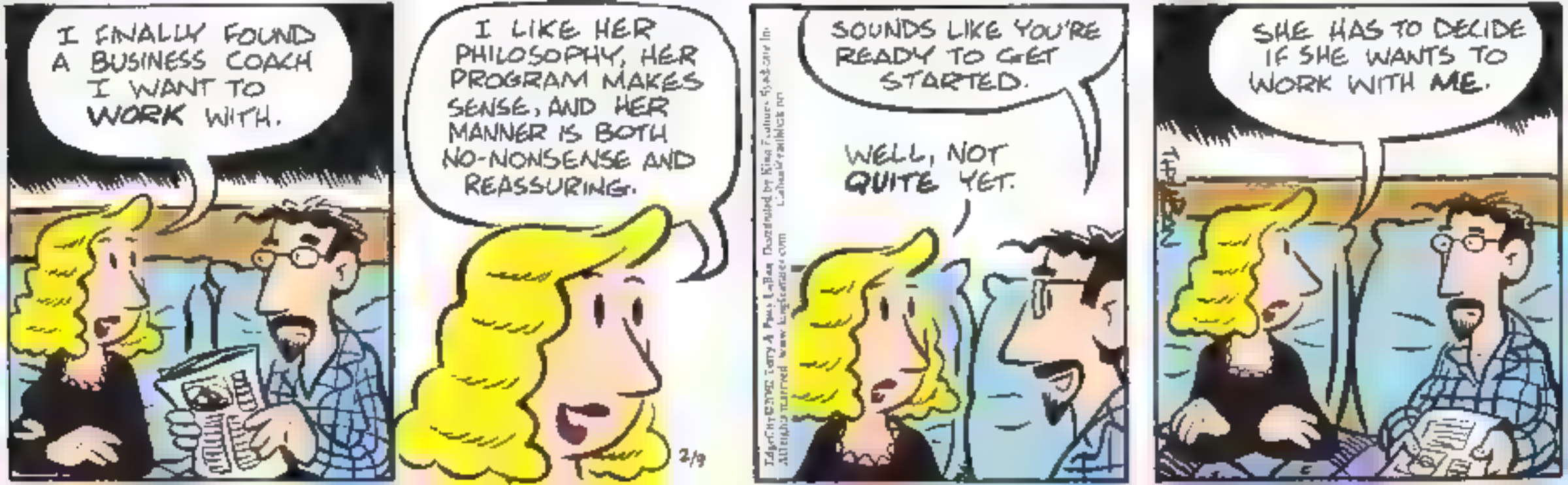

WHICH PATIENTS AM I SUPPOSED TO SEE THIS AFTERNOON?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY THERAPY APPOINTMENTS AFTER 1:00.
2/4
THINGS HAVE BEEN REALLY SLOW LATELY. IT MUST BE THE ECONOMY.
YEAH-- THEY SAY IT'S TOUGH ALL OVER.
BY THE WAY-- WHAT'S WITH THE CROWD IN THE FOYER?
THEY'RE WAITING FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH DR. COOPER.
TELL 'EM TO GO HOME! I'M FULL!
TABABAN


MY THERAPY CLIENTS HAVE REALLY DROPPED OFF LATELY.
ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING TO PROMOTE YOURSELF?
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM WITH THAT. IT SEEMS SO DEMEANING.
IF I WAS GOOD, I'D HAVE CLIENTS. HUSTLING FOR WORK MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A FAILURE.
2/5
WHAT DOES NOT HAVING WORK AT ALL FEEL LIKE?
WOW! I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT!
TOP LABAN


I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF CLIENTS, JANICE.
I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH A BUSINESS COACH.
SHE'S HELPED ME FIND WAYS TO PROMOTE MYSELF, AND GIVEN ME THE SUPPORT TO FOLLOW THROUGH.
I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO PROMOTE MYSELF. YOU PRINT A BROCHURE, DO WORKSHOPS...
GREAT! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START?
2/6
SOON.
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME PHONE NUMBERS...
THAIARAN

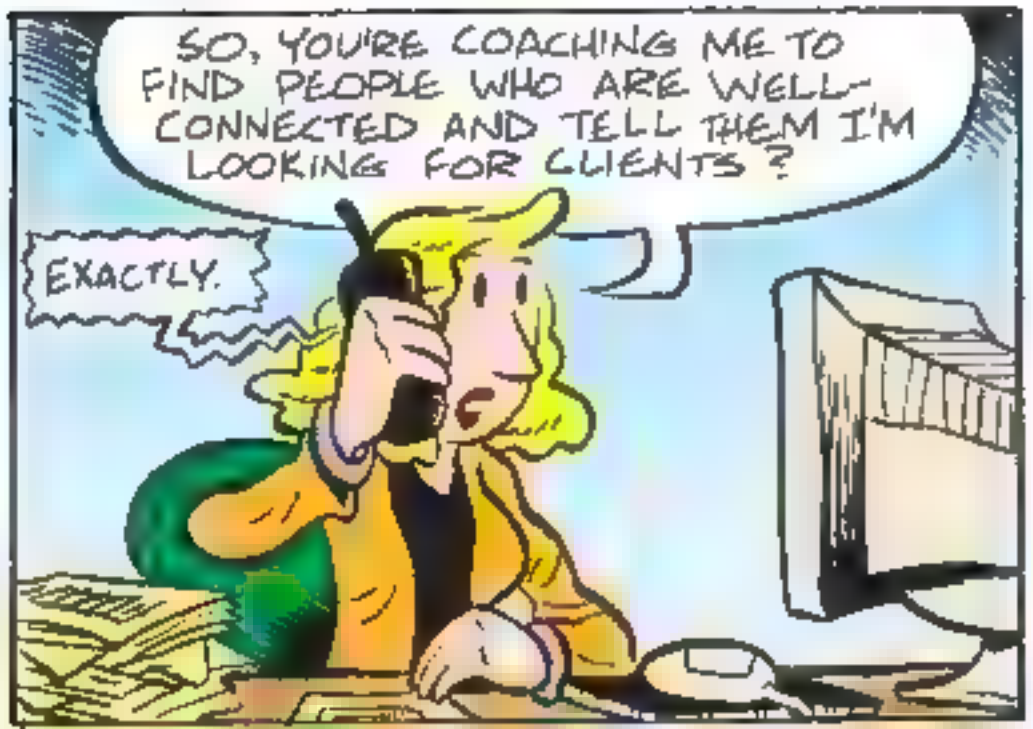

THIS IS SAPPHIRE FROM CAREER TRANSFORMATIONS. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A COACH TO HELP BUILD YOUR THERAPY PRACTICE?
YES. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM?
OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS ON ACTIVATING YOUR CAREER CHAKRAS SO YOU'LL BE OPEN TO THE SUCCESS ENERGY AROUND YOU.
2/7
HOLD THE PHONE LIGHTLY.. I'LL SEND YOU A SAMPLE VIBE.
NEXT ON THE LIST...
TRLARSON

THIS IS ROCKY AT TOUGH LUCK COACHING SOLUTIONS. YOU ABBY ARDIN?
YES. I'M LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS COACH. I LIKED HOW YOU DESCRIBED YOUR PROGRAM AS "NO-NONSENSE".
YOU BETCHA! I DON'T WANNA HEAR MY CLIENT'S EXCUSES! JUST GET OUT THERE AND SUCCEED, GOSH DARN IT!!
I'D LIKE TO. BUT IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
2/8
THAT'S NEGATIVE THINKING, ARDIN! GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND GIVE ME 20!
NEXT ON THE LIST...
TAPLABON

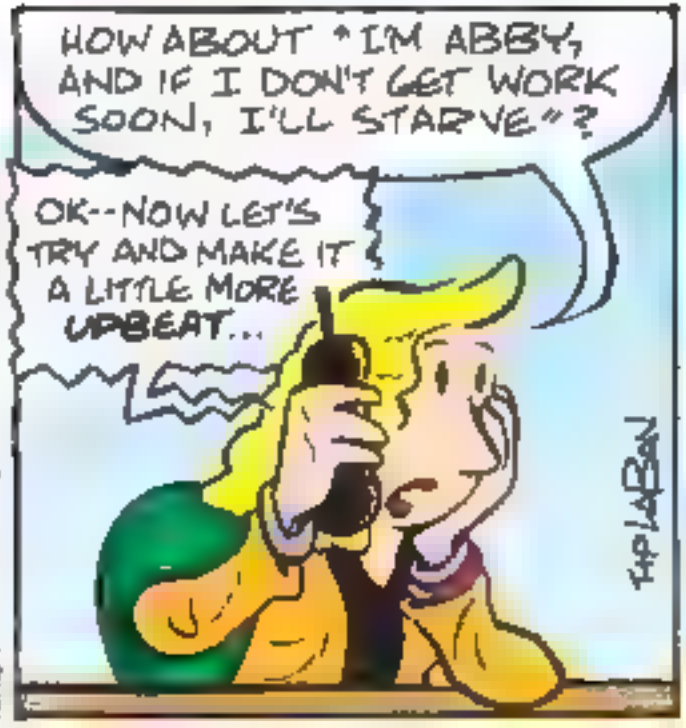

I FINALLY FOUND A BUSINESS COACH I WANT TO WORK WITH.
I LIKE HER PHILOSOPHY, HER PROGRAM MAKES SENSE, AND HER MANNER IS BOTH NO-NONSENSE AND REASSURING.
2/9
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO GET STARTED.
WELL, NOT QUITE YET.
SHE HAS TO DECIDE IF SHE WANTS TO WORK WITH ME.

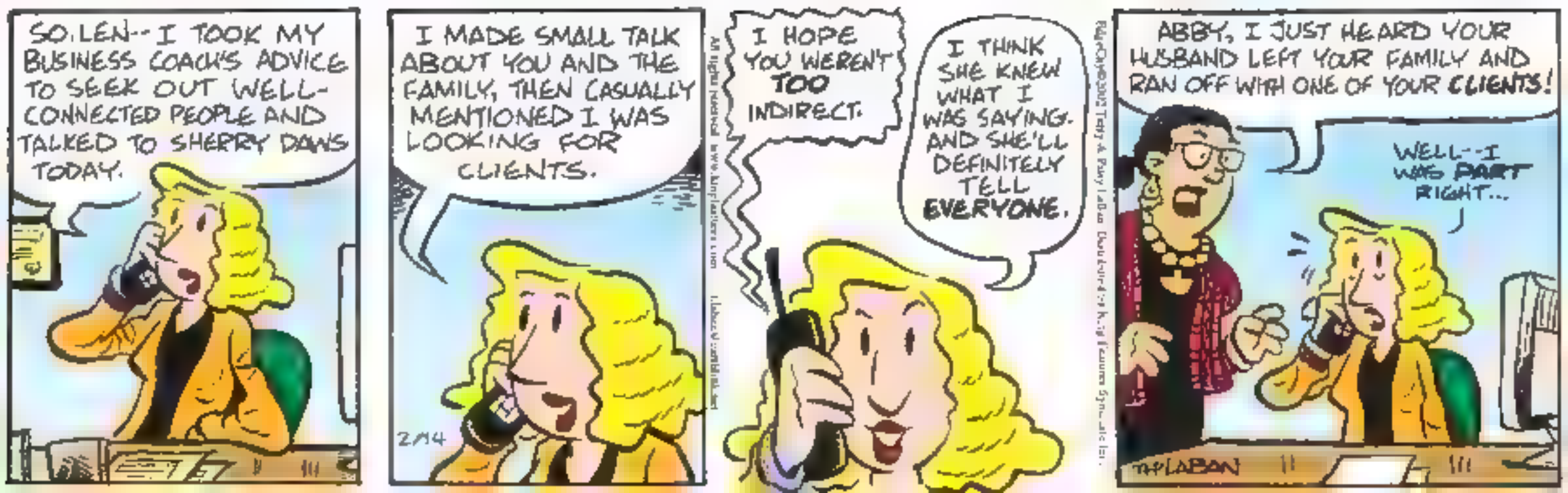
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT FROM MY BUSINESS COACH.
I'M SUPPOSED TO WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT THAT SUMS UP WHO I AM AND WHAT I DO.
2/11
IT SEEMS KIND OF LONG FOR A BRIEF STATEMENT.
HMMM... IF I HAD TO, I COULD CUT THE LAST 2 APPENDIXES...
THALABAN

EVERYONE I COACH GETS WORK DIFFERENTLY, ABBY--HOW DO YOU DO IT?
MOST CLIENTS HEAR ABOUT ME THROUGH WORD-OF-MOUTH.
THEN YOU NEED TO FIND PEOPLE WHO WILL GET THE WORD OUT.
DO YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO KNOW EVERYONE AND ARE GOOD AT SPREADING INFORMATION? THERE'S ACTUALLY A NAME FOR THEM.
YOU MEAN "BUSYBODIES"?
"CONNECTORS" IS THE TERM WE USE.
TRUARTON
2/12

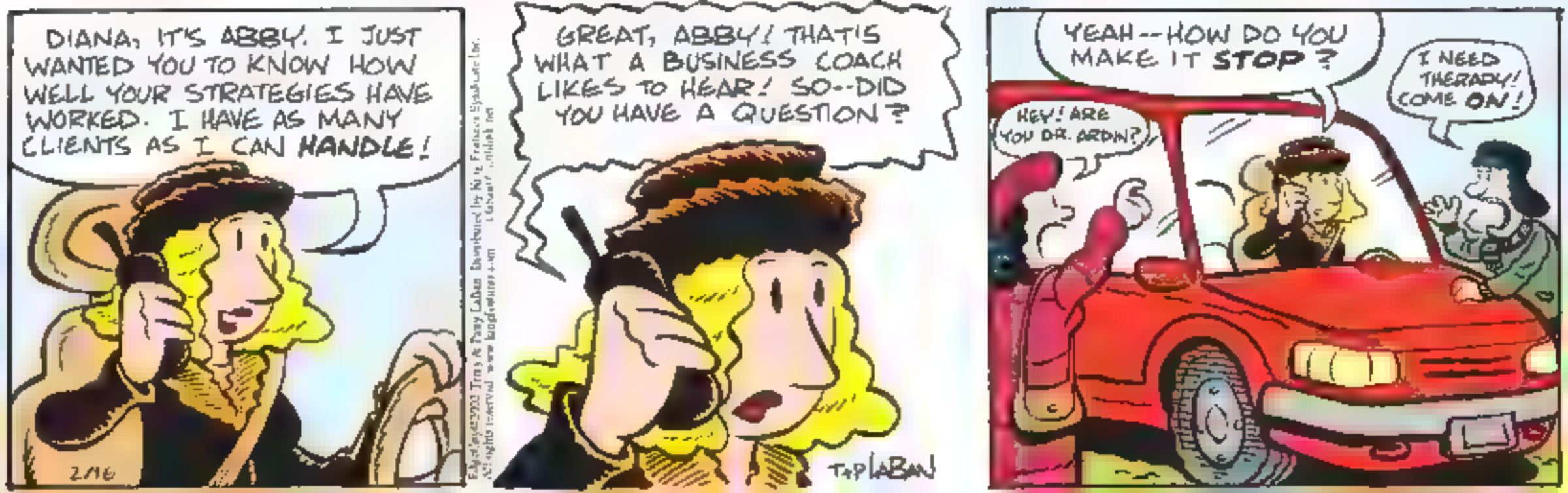

SO, YOU'RE COACHING ME TO FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL-CONNECTED AND TELL THEM I'M LOOKING FOR CLIENTS?
EXACTLY.

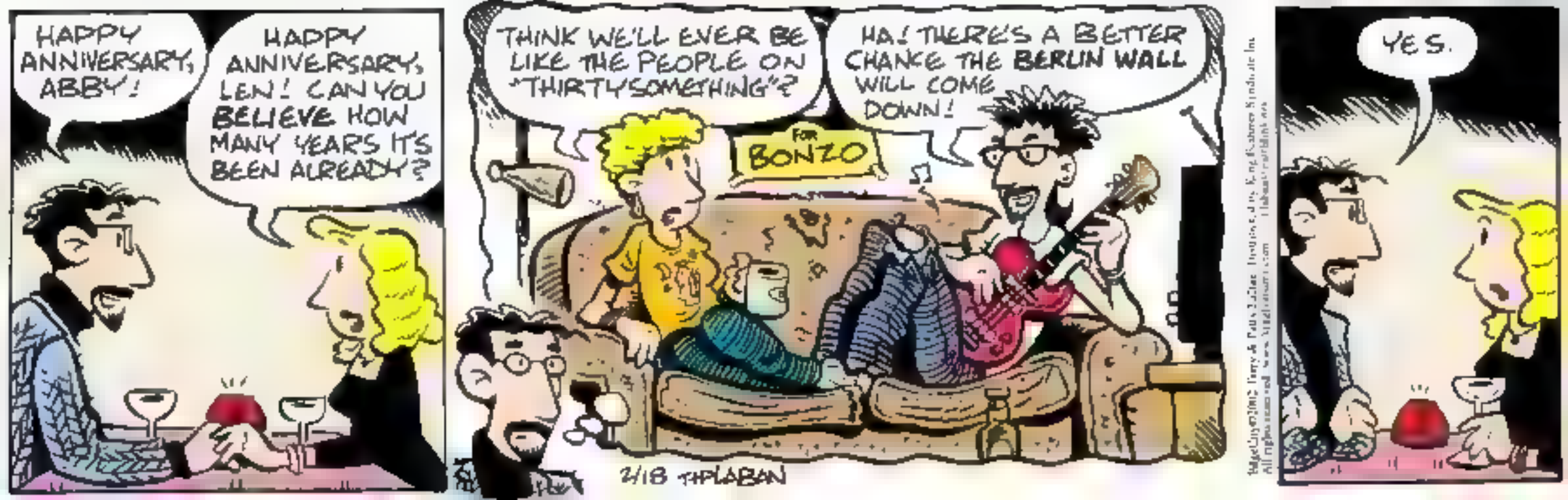
WHAT YOU NEED IS AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT THAT MAKES YOUR SITUATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND.
1/13

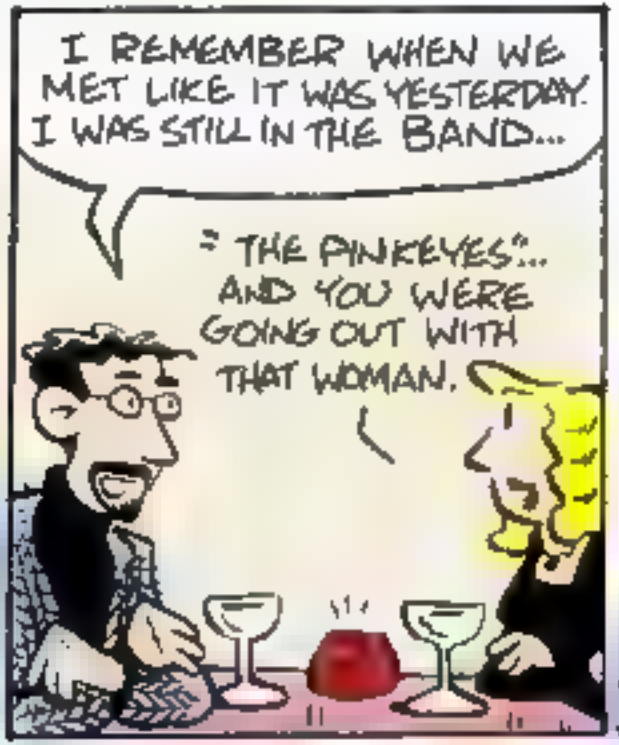

HOW ABOUT "I'M ABBY, AND IF I DON'T GET WORK SOON, I'LL STARVE"?
OK--NOW LET'S TRY AND MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE UPBEAT...
THPLABAN

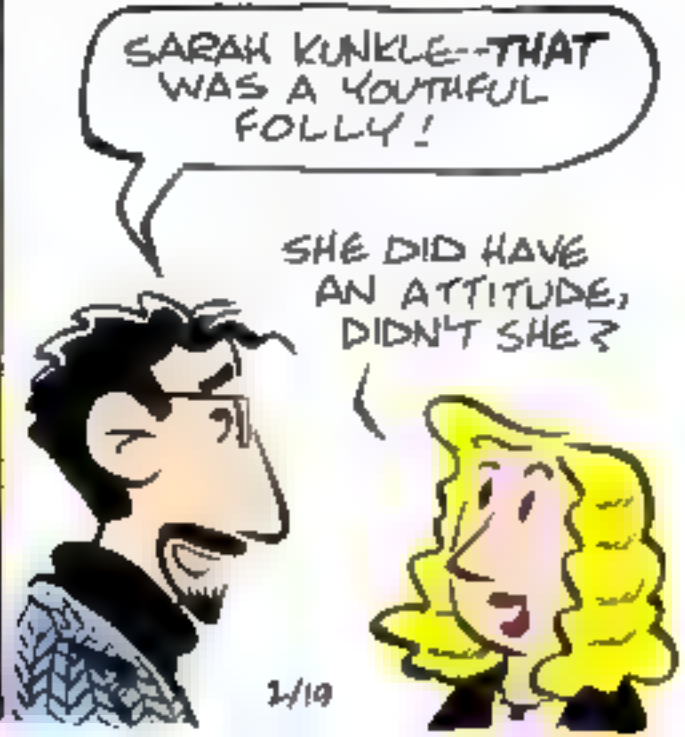

SO, LEN-- I TOOK MY BUSINESS COACH'S ADVICE TO SEEK OUT WELL-CONNECTED PEOPLE AND TALKED TO SHERRY DAWS TODAY.
I MADE SMALL TALK ABOUT YOU AND THE FAMILY, THEN CASUALLY MENTIONED I WAS LOOKING FOR CLIENTS.
2/14
I HOPE YOU WEREN'T TOO INDIRECT.
I THINK SHE KNEW WHAT I WAS SAYING. AND SHE'LL DEFINITELY TELL EVERYONE.
ABBY, I JUST HEARD YOUR HUSBAND LEFT YOUR FAMILY AND RAN OFF WITH ONE OF YOUR CLIENTS!
WELL--I WAS PART RIGHT...
THY LABAN

HI, ABBY! IT'S YOUR BUSINESS COACH. HOW'S THE SELF-PROMOTION GOING?
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT OTHER THERAPISTS ARE FINALLY STARTING TO REFER CLIENTS TO ME.
GREAT!
THE BAD NEWS IS THEY'RE THE CLIENTS NO ONE ELSE WANTS.
MY NOSE KEEPS LAUGHING AT ME.
12
THPLABAN 2/15


DIANA, IT'S ABBY. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW WELL YOUR STRATEGIES HAVE WORKED. I HAVE AS MANY CLIENTS AS I CAN HANDLE!
2/16
GREAT, ABBY! THAT'S WHAT A BUSINESS COACH LIKES TO HEAR! SO--DID YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
T+P LABAN
YEAH--HOW DO YOU MAKE IT STOP?
HEY! ARE YOU DR. ARDIN?
I NEED THERAPY! COME ON!


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ABBY!
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, LEN! CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN ALREADY?
THINK WE'LL EVER BE LIKE THE PEOPLE ON "THIRTYSOMETHING"?
HA! THERE'S A BETTER CHANCE THE BERLIN WALL WILL COME DOWN!
FOR BONZO
2/18 THPLABAN
YES.





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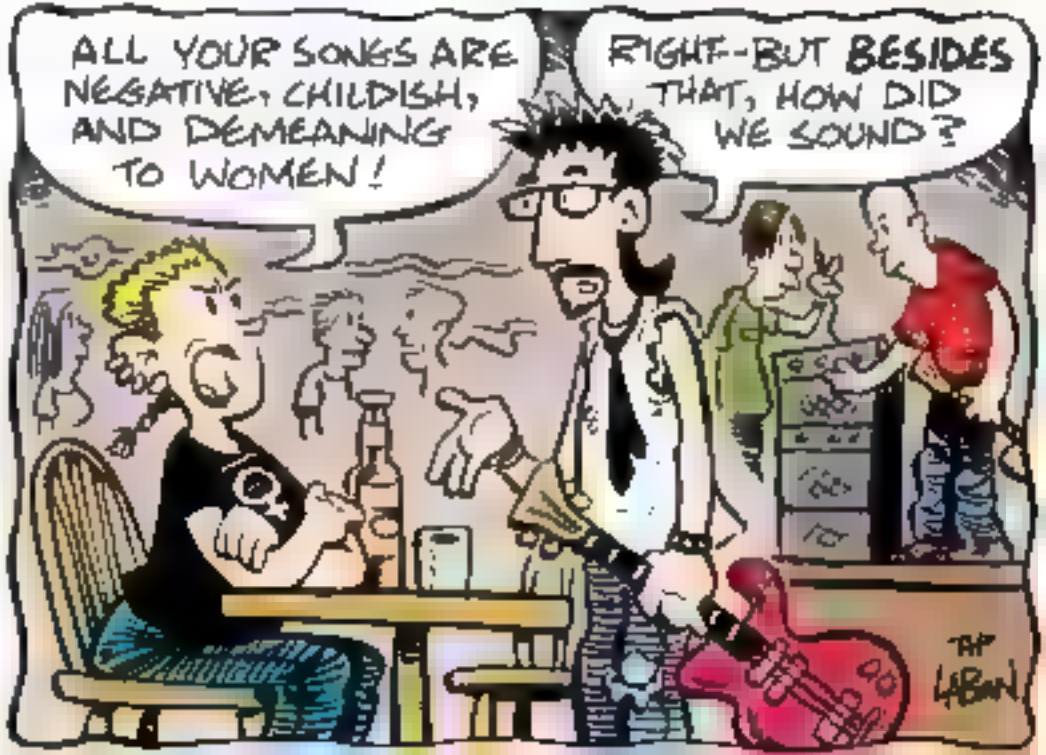
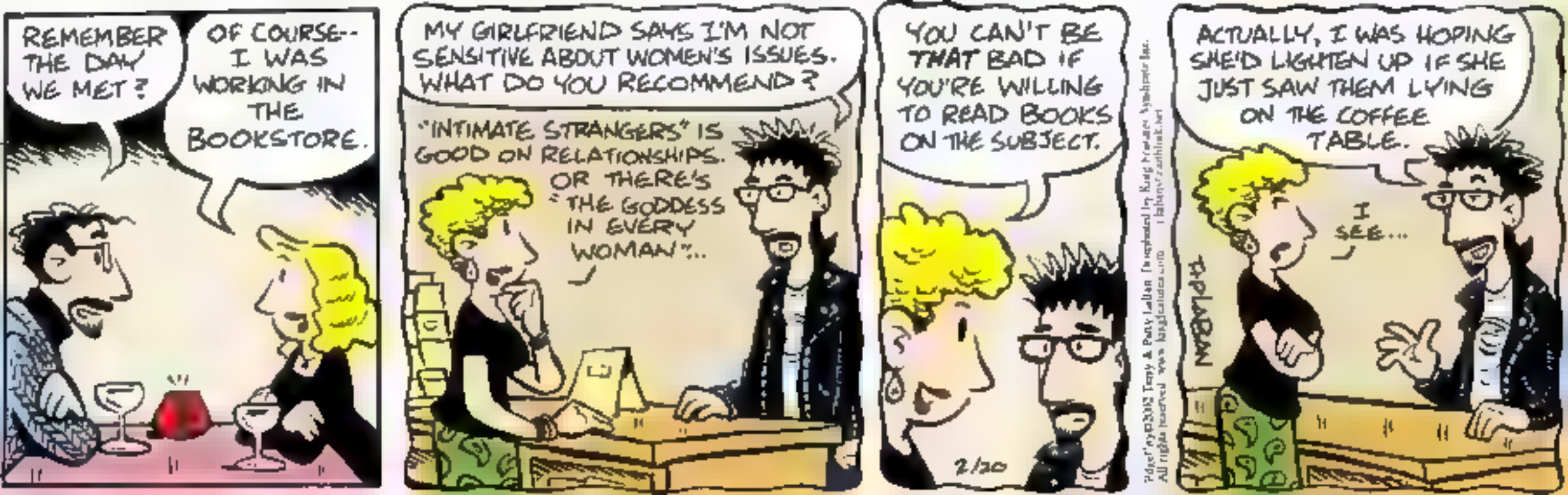
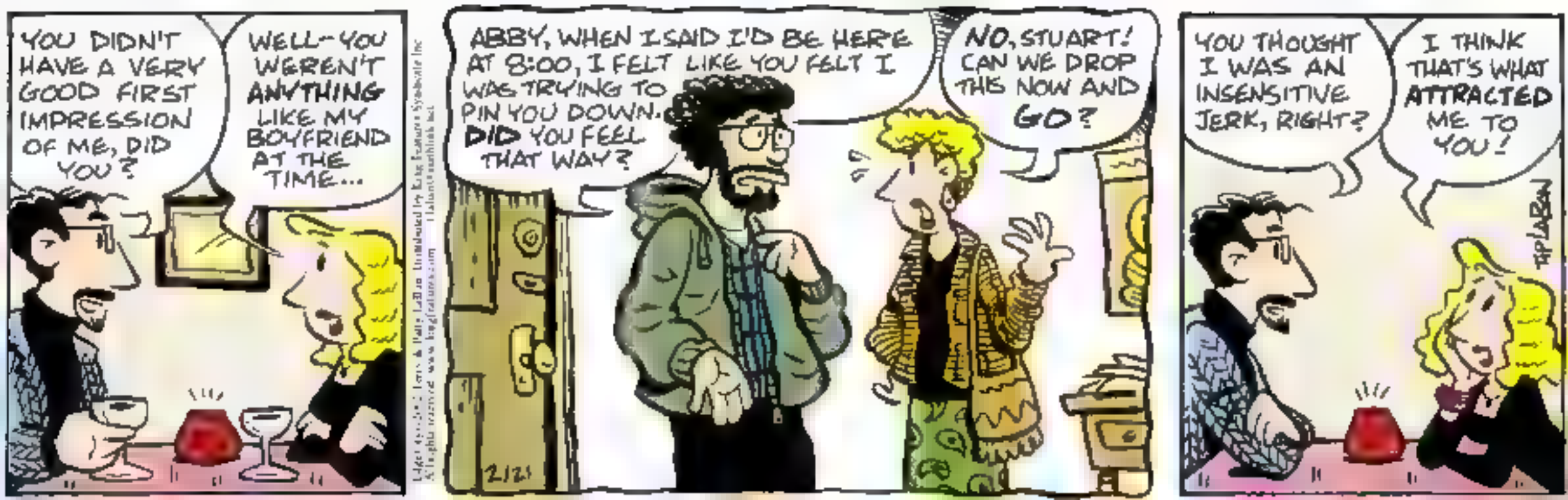
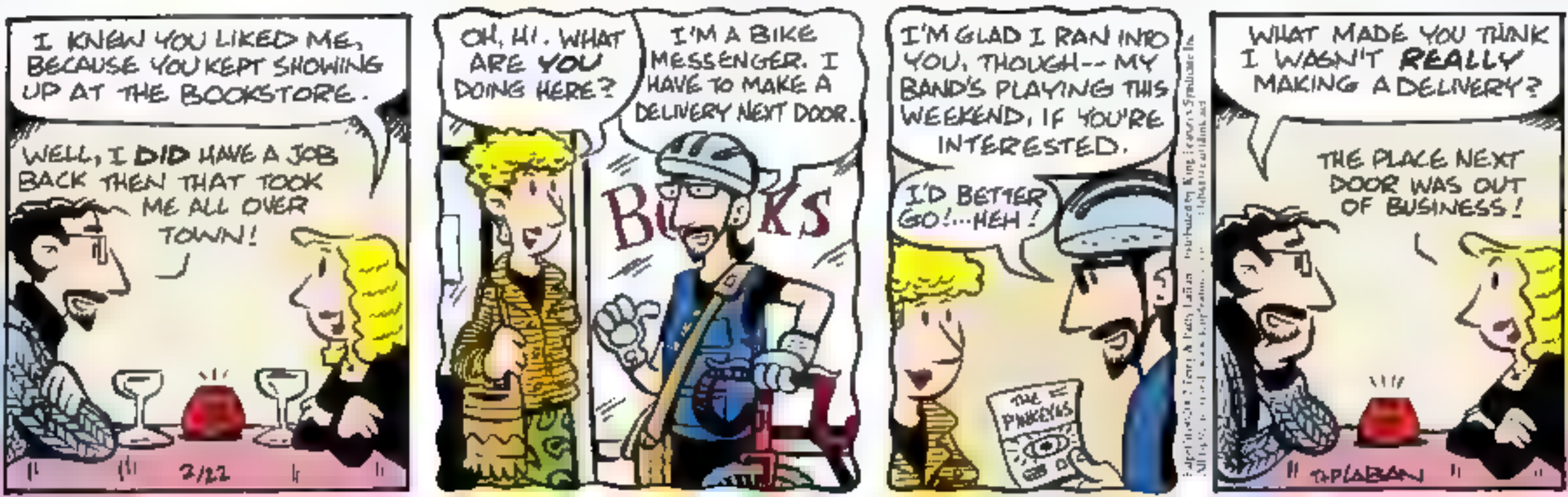
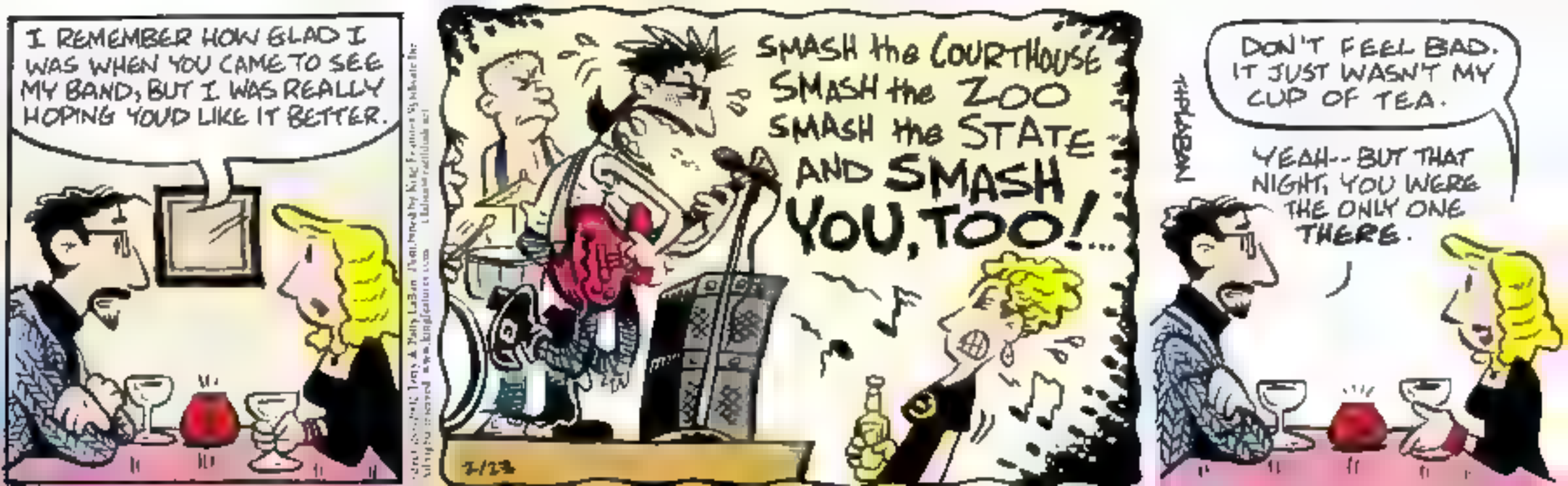
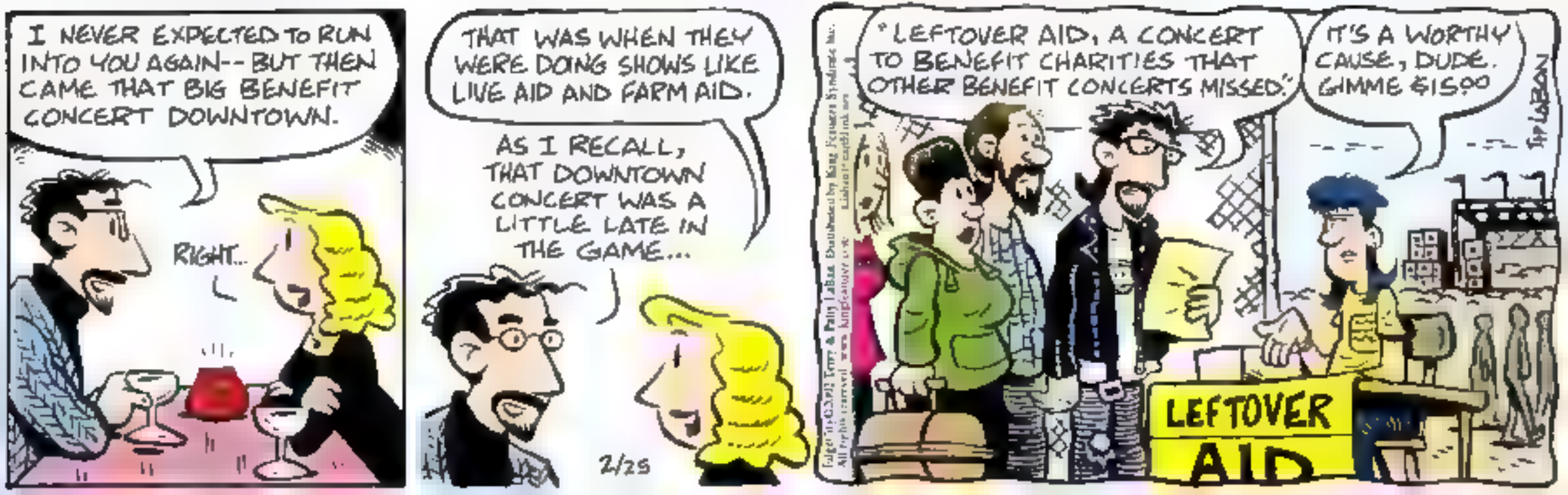


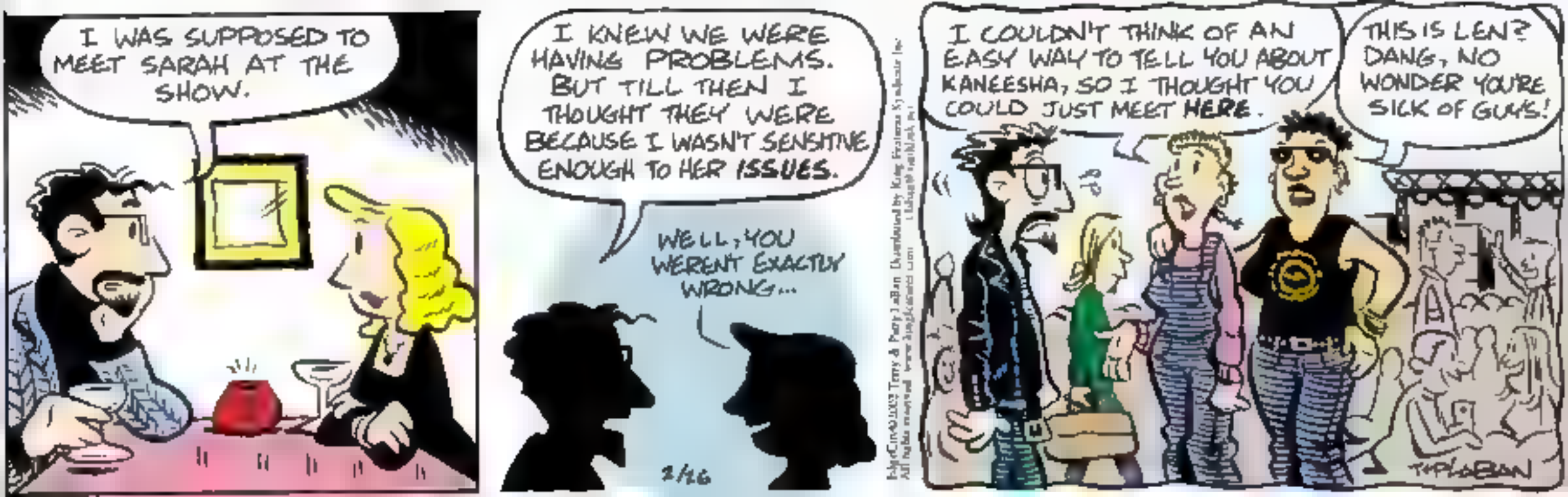

REMEMBER THE DAY WE MET?
OF COURSE-- I WAS WORKING IN THE BOOKSTORE.
MY GIRLFRIEND SAYS I'M NOT SENSITIVE ABOUT WOMEN'S ISSUES. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?
"INTIMATE STRANGERS" IS GOOD ON RELATIONSHIPS. OR THERE'S "THE GODDESS IN EVERY WOMAN"...
YOU CAN'T BE THAT BAD IF YOU'RE WILLING TO READ BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT.
2/20
ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING SHE'D LIGHTEN UP IF SHE JUST SAW THEM LYING ON THE COFFEE TABLE.
I SEE...
TOPLADAN

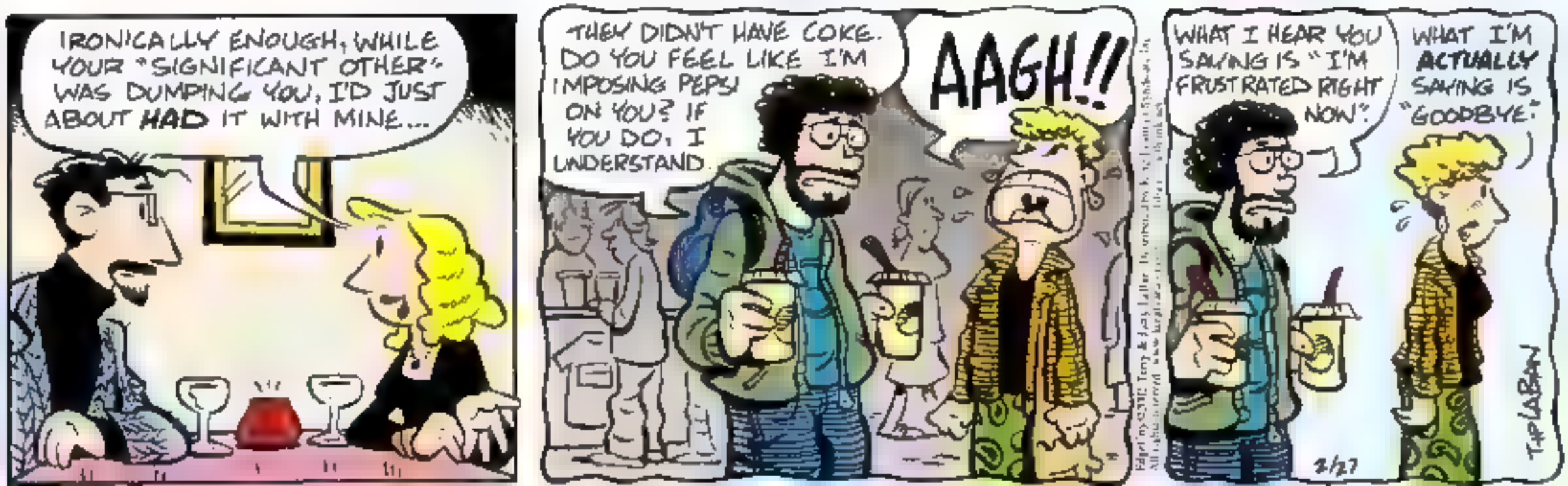

YOU DIDN'T HAVE A VERY GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION OF ME, DID YOU?
WELL-YOU WEREN'T ANYTHING LIKE MY BOYFRIEND AT THE TIME...
ABBY, WHEN I SAID I'D BE HERE AT 8:00, I FELT LIKE YOU FELT I WAS TRYING TO PIN YOU DOWN. DID YOU FEEL THAT WAY?
NO, STUART! CAN WE DROP THIS NOW AND GO?
YOU THOUGHT I WAS AN INSENSITIVE JERK, RIGHT?
I THINK THAT'S WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO YOU!
TIP LABRAN

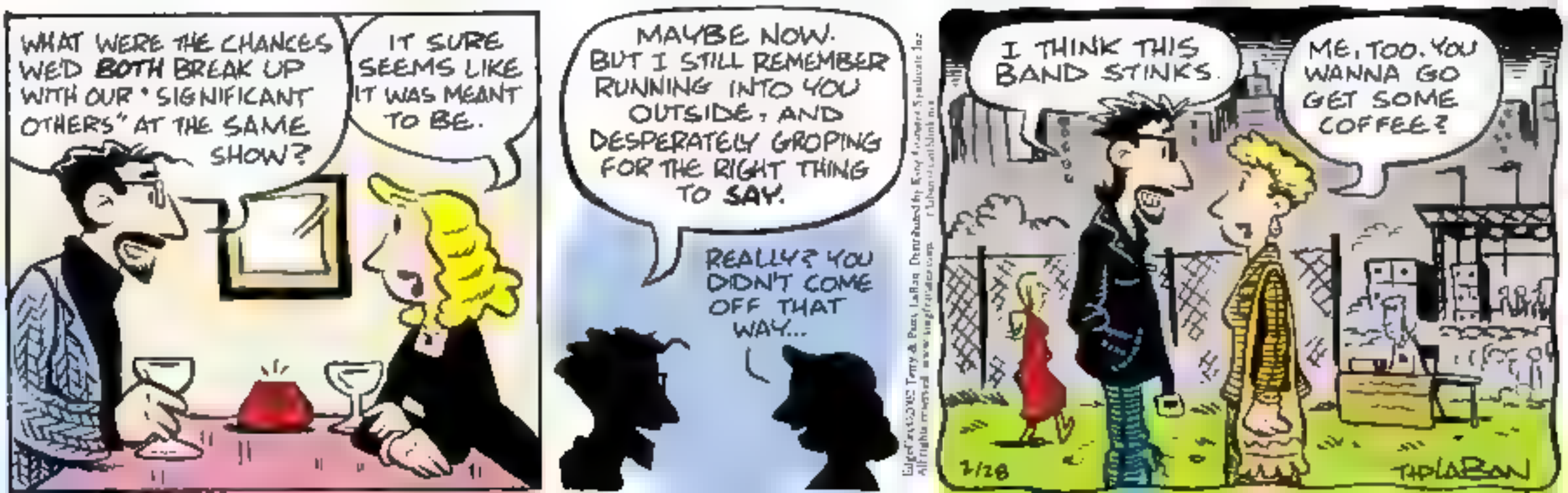

I KNEW YOU LIKED ME, BECAUSE YOU KEPT SHOWING UP AT THE BOOKSTORE.
WELL, I DID HAVE A JOB BACK THEN THAT TOOK ME ALL OVER TOWN!
2/22
OH, HI. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M A BIKE MESSENGER. I HAVE TO MAKE A DELIVERY NEXT DOOR.
I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU, THOUGH-- MY BAND'S PLAYING THIS WEEKEND, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.
I'D BETTER GO!...HEH!
THE PINKEYES
WHAT MADE YOU THINK I WASN'T REALLY MAKING A DELIVERY?
THE PLACE NEXT DOOR WAS OUT OF BUSINESS!
TOPLABAN

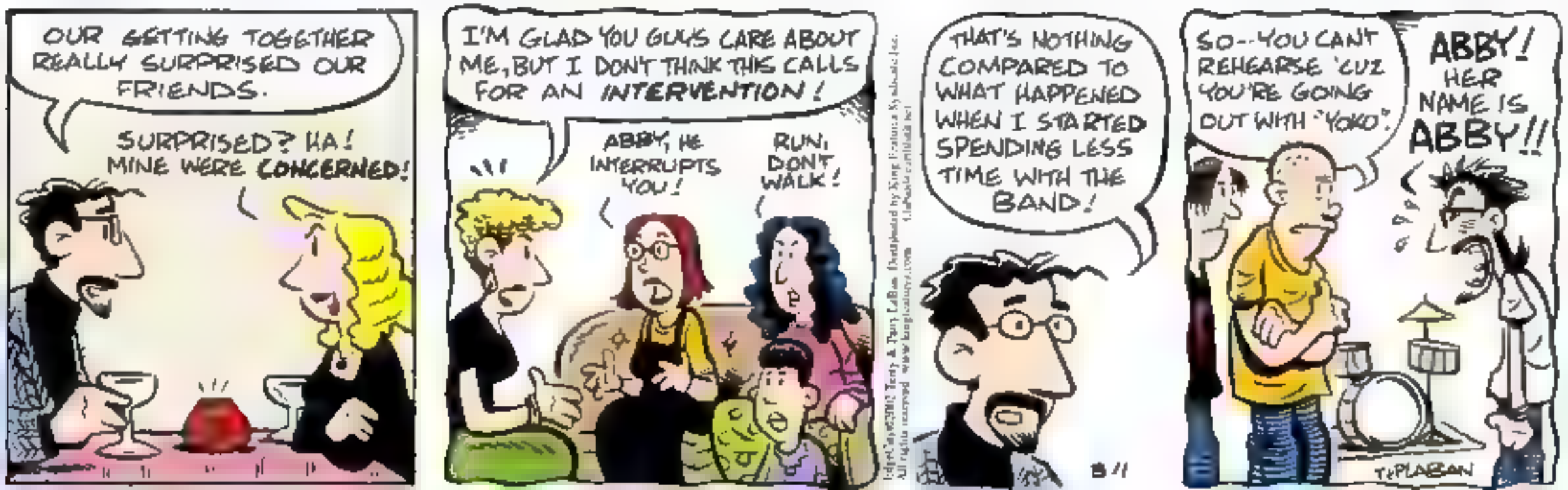

I REMEMBER HOW GLAD I WAS WHEN YOU CAME TO SEE MY BAND, BUT I WAS REALLY HOPING YOU'D LIKE IT BETTER.
SMASH the COURTHOUSE SMASH the ZOO SMASH the STATE AND SMASH YOU, TOO!...
7/23
DON'T FEEL BAD. IT JUST WASN'T MY CUP OF TEA.
YEAH-- BUT THAT NIGHT, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THERE.
THABAN


I NEVER EXPECTED TO RUN INTO YOU AGAIN-- BUT THEN CAME THAT BIG BENEFIT CONCERT DOWNTOWN.
RIGHT...
THAT WAS WHEN THEY WERE DOING SHOWS LIKE LIVE AID AND FARM AID.
AS I RECALL, THAT DOWNTOWN CONCERT WAS A LITTLE LATE IN THE GAME...
2/25
"LEFTOVER AID, A CONCERT TO BENEFIT CHARITIES THAT OTHER BENEFIT CONCERTS MISSED."
IT'S A WORTHY CAUSE, DUDE. GIMME $15.00
LEFTOVER
AID
TIP LABAN

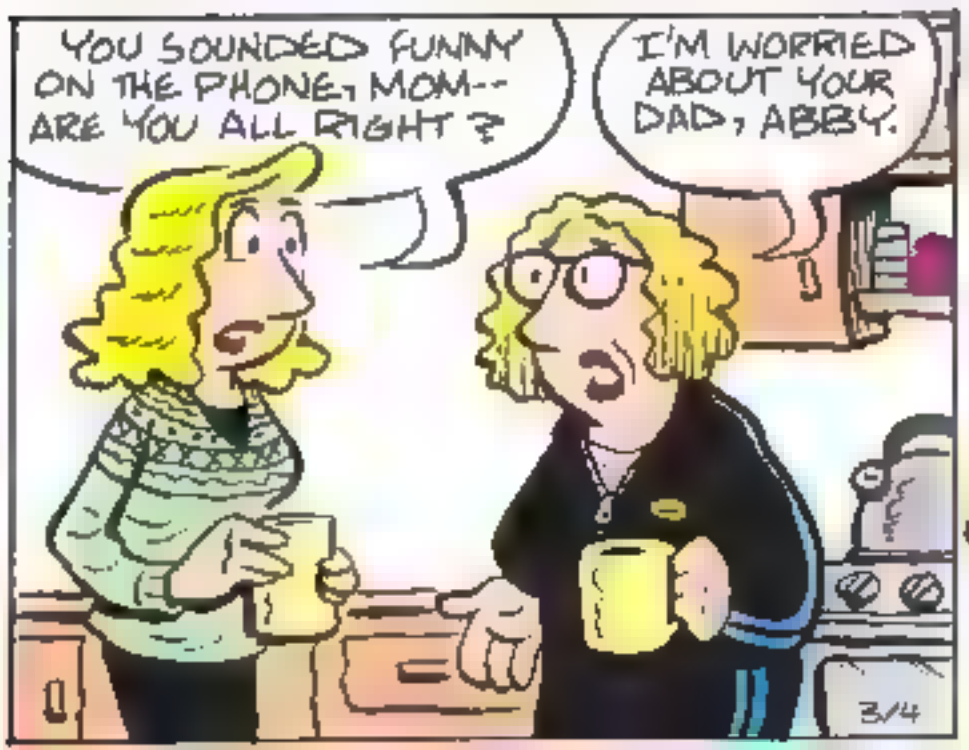

I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET SARAH AT THE SHOW.
I KNEW WE WERE HAVING PROBLEMS. BUT TILL THEN I THOUGHT THEY WERE BECAUSE I WASN'T SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO HER ISSUES.
WELL, YOU WERENT EXACTLY WRONG...
2/26
I COULDN'T THINK OF AN EASY WAY TO TELL YOU ABOUT KANEESHA, SO I THOUGHT YOU COULD JUST MEET HERE.
THIS IS LEN? DANG, NO WONDER YOU'RE SICK OF GUYS!
TRIBAN


IRONICALLY ENOUGH, WHILE YOUR "SIGNIFICANT OTHER" WAS DUMPING YOU, I'D JUST ABOUT HAD IT WITH MINE...
THEY DIDN'T HAVE COKE. DO YOU FEEL LIKE I'M IMPOSING PEPSI ON YOU? IF YOU DO, I UNDERSTAND.
AAGH!!
WHAT I HEAR YOU SAYING IS "I'M FRUSTRATED RIGHT NOW".
WHAT I'M ACTUALLY SAYING IS "GOODBYE."
2/27
TAPLABAN

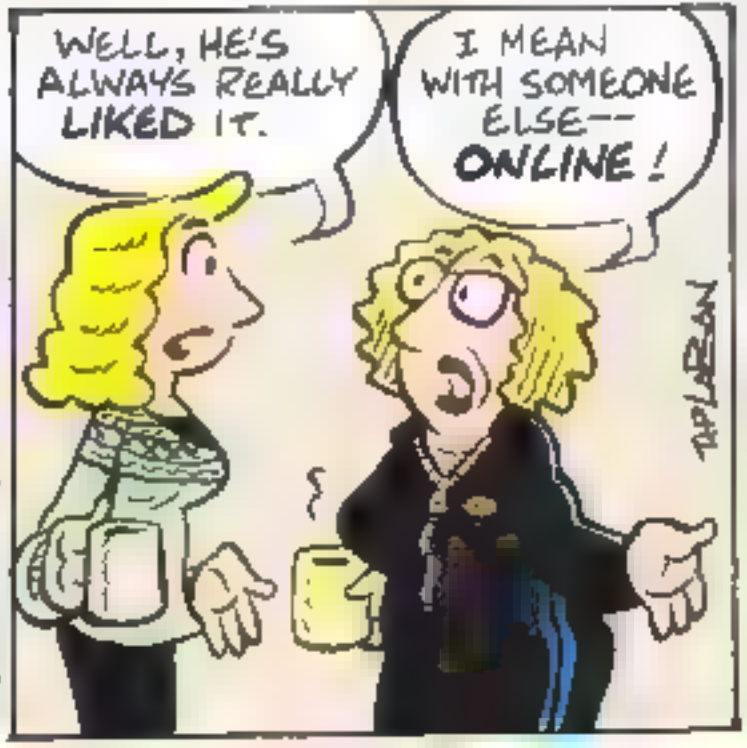

WHAT WERE THE CHANCES WE'D BOTH BREAK UP WITH OUR "SIGNIFICANT OTHERS" AT THE SAME SHOW?
IT SURE SEEMS LIKE IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
MAYBE NOW. BUT I STILL REMEMBER RUNNING INTO YOU OUTSIDE, AND DESPERATELY GROPING FOR THE RIGHT THING TO SAY.
REALLY? YOU DIDN'T COME OFF THAT WAY...
I THINK THIS BAND STINKS.
ME, TOO. YOU WANNA GO GET SOME COFFEE?
2/28
THDLaRan

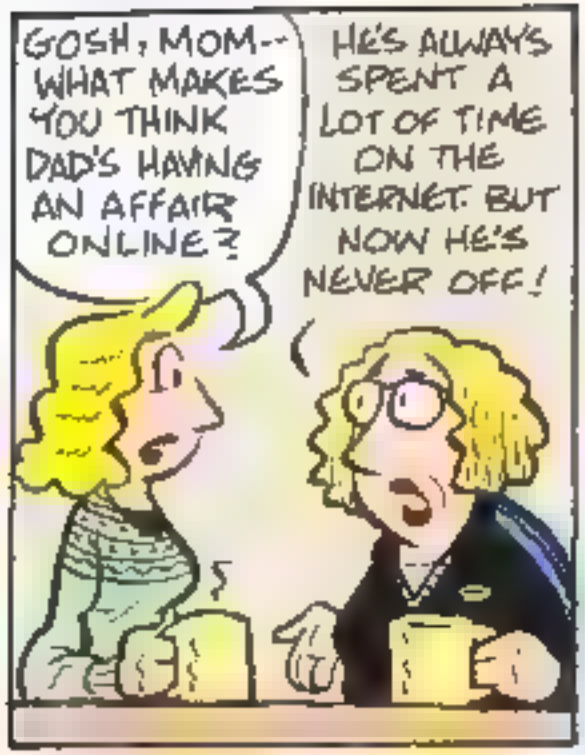

OUR GETTING TOGETHER REALLY SURPRISED OUR FRIENDS.
SURPRISED? HA! MINE WERE CONCERNED!
I'M GLAD YOU GUYS CARE ABOUT ME, BUT I DON'T THINK THIS CALLS FOR AN INTERVENTION!
ABBY, HE INTERRUPTS YOU!
RUN, DON'T WALK!
THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I STARTED SPENDING LESS TIME WITH THE BAND!
SO--YOU CAN'T REHEARSE 'CUZ YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH "YOKO".
ABBY! HER NAME IS ABBY!!
T.PLABAN

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MARRY A TOUCHY-FEELY THERAPIST.
OR I A SARCASTIC PUNK ROCKER.
BUT YOU GOT ME INTO A COOL, EDGY PART OF MYSELF I HADN'T EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
AND YOU MADE ME COMFORTABLE WITH BEING MORE OPEN AND SENSITIVE.
I LOOK PRETTY GOOD IN A LEATHER JACKET.
WOW--ALL I WANNA WRITE ARE LOVE SONGS!
WE KIND OF RUINED EACH OTHER, DIDN'T WE?
OH, WELL...


YOU SOUNDED FUNNY ON THE PHONE, MOM-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DAD, ABBY.
3/4

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S HIM AND THAT COMPUTER-- I THINK HE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR!


WELL, HE'S ALWAYS REALLY LIKED IT.
I MEAN WITH SOMEONE ELSE-- ONLINE!
TUPLABAN



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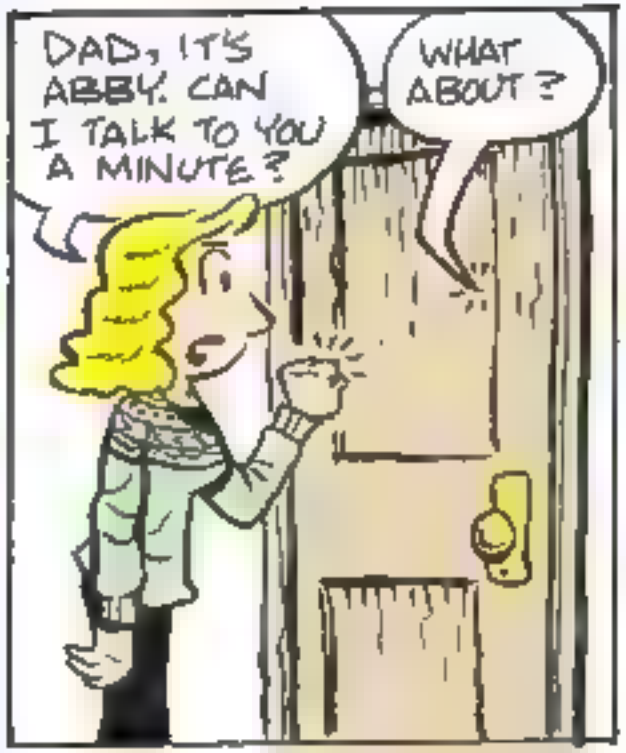
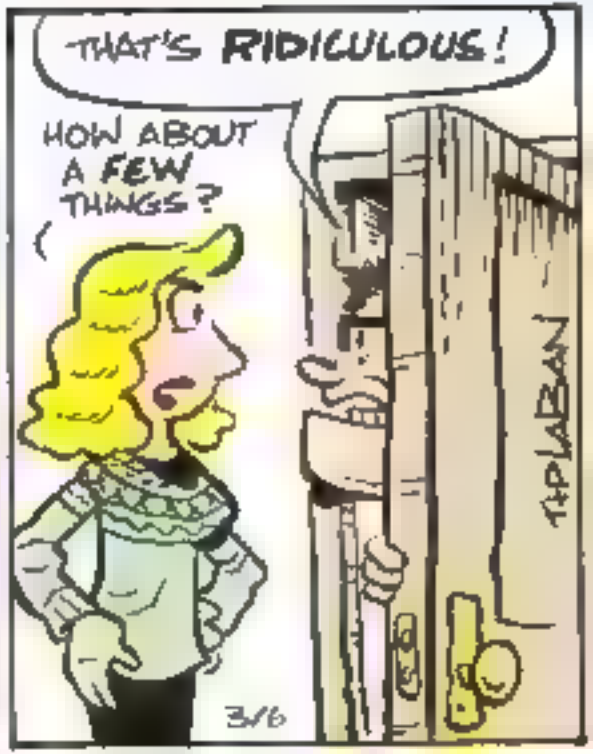
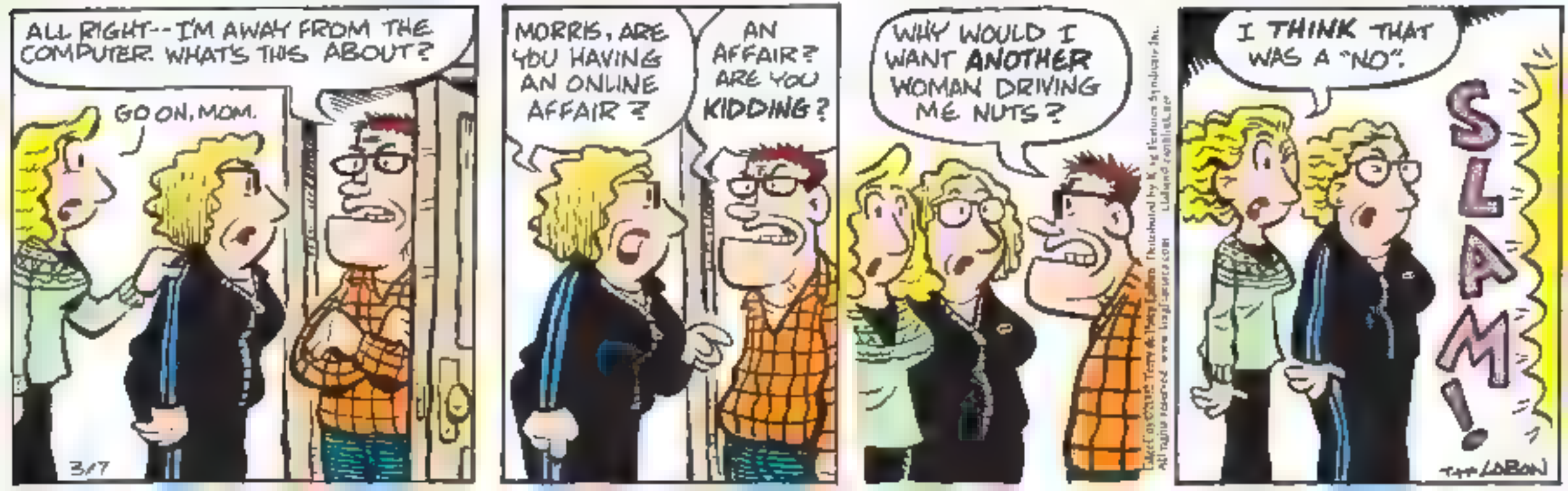
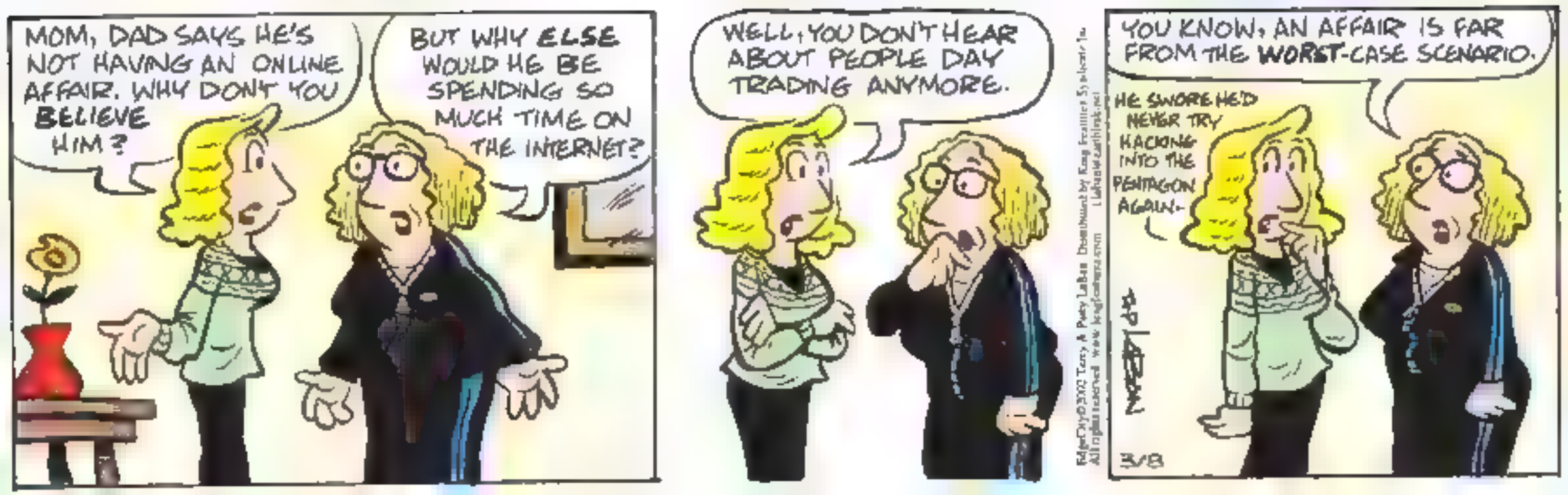

DAD, IT'S ABBY. CAN I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE?
WHAT ABOUT?

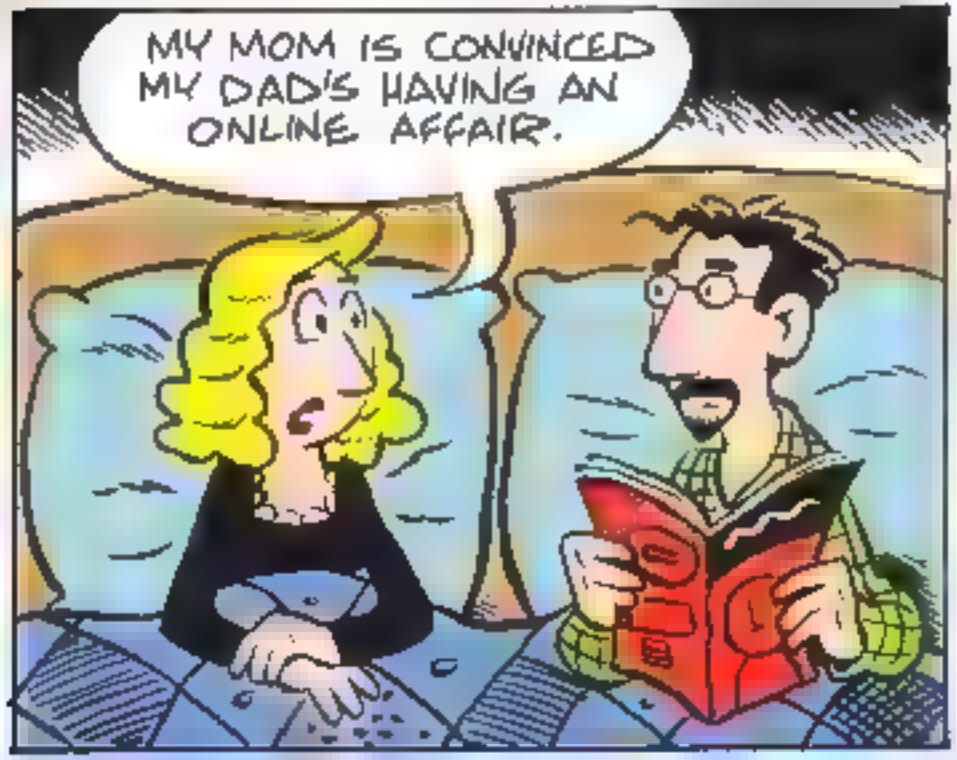
MOM'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. SHE SAYS YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE!
SOMETHING TO HIDE?

SLAM!
RUSTLE!
SCRAAAPE!
WHAM!
squeek!


THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOW ABOUT A FEW THINGS?
3/6
THPLABAN

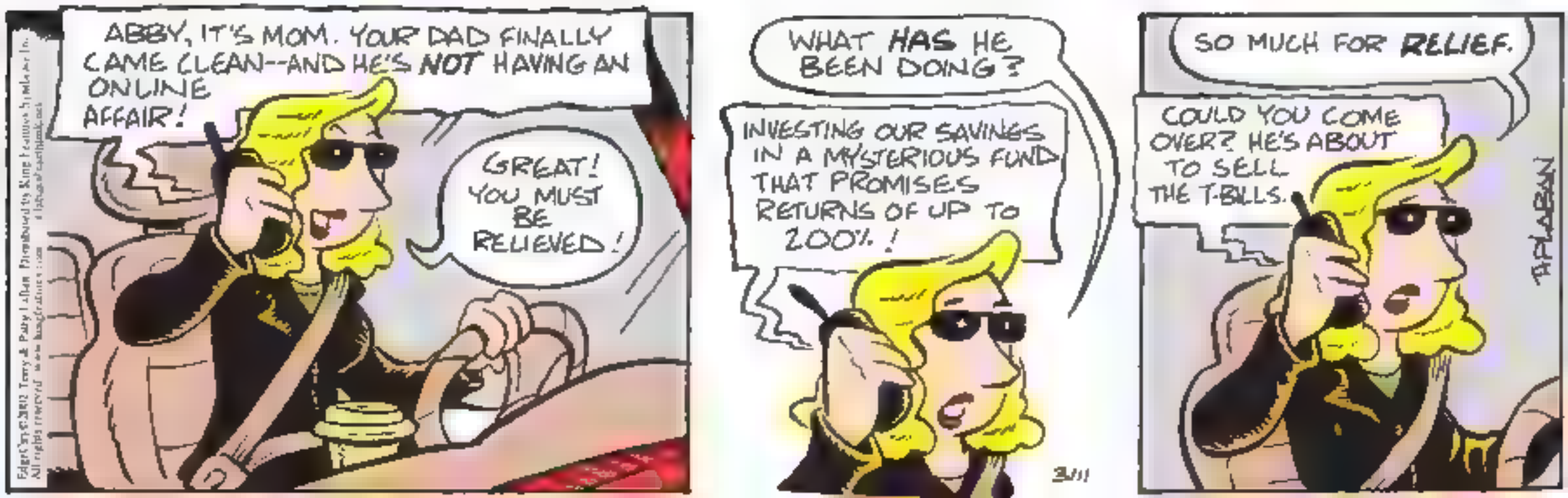

ALL RIGHT--I'M AWAY FROM THE COMPUTER. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
GO ON, MOM.
3/7
MORRIS, ARE YOU HAVING AN ONLINE AFFAIR?
AN AFFAIR? ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHY WOULD I WANT ANOTHER WOMAN DRIVING ME NUTS?
I THINK THAT WAS A "NO".
SLAM!
TOM LABONI

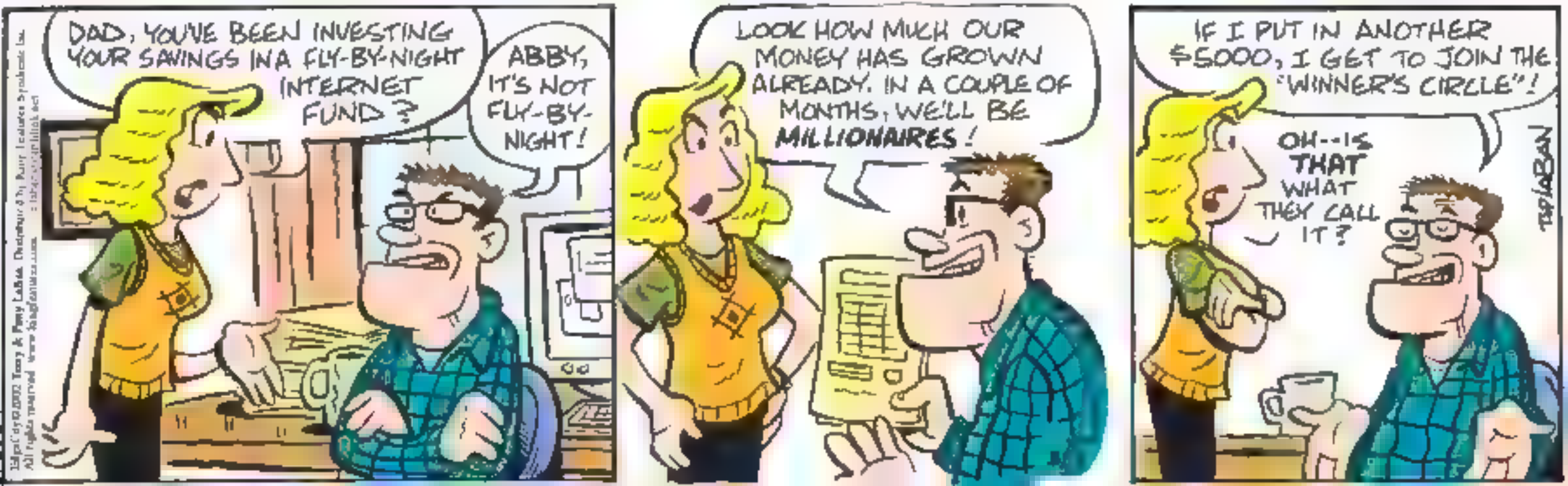

MOM, DAD SAYS HE'S NOT HAVING AN ONLINE AFFAIR. WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE HIM?
BUT WHY ELSE WOULD HE BE SPENDING SO MUCH TIME ON THE INTERNET?
WELL, YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE DAY TRADING ANYMORE.
YOU KNOW, AN AFFAIR IS FAR FROM THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO.
HE SWORE HE'D NEVER TRY HACKING INTO THE PENTAGON AGAIN.
3/8

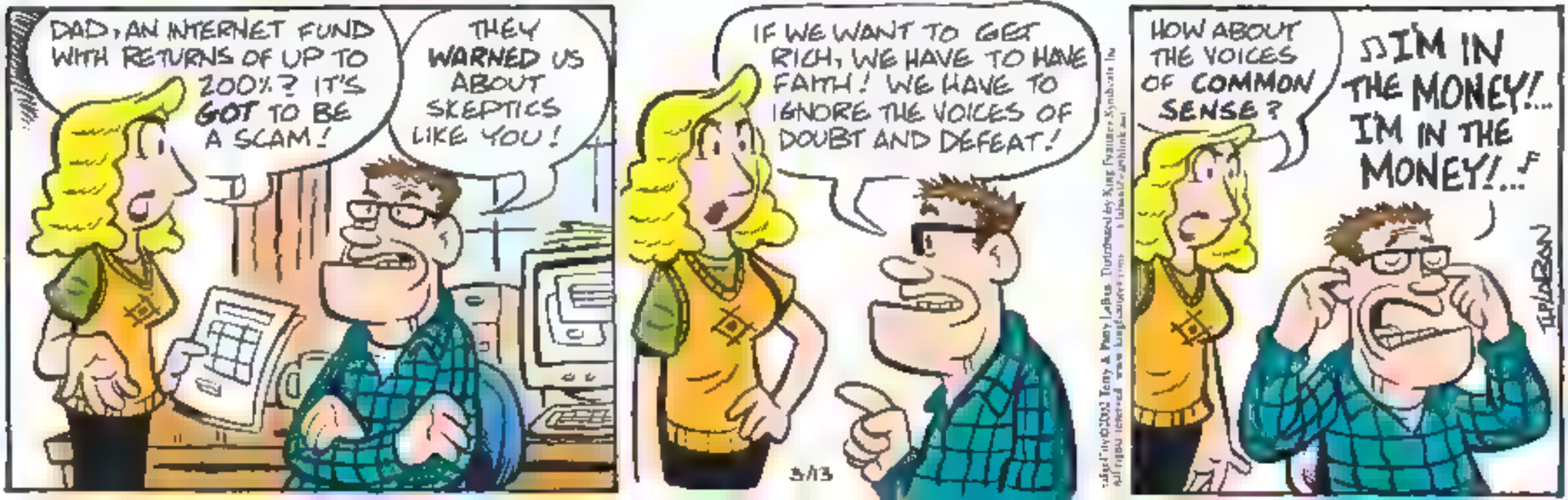

MY MOM IS CONVINCED MY DAD'S HAVING AN ONLINE AFFAIR.

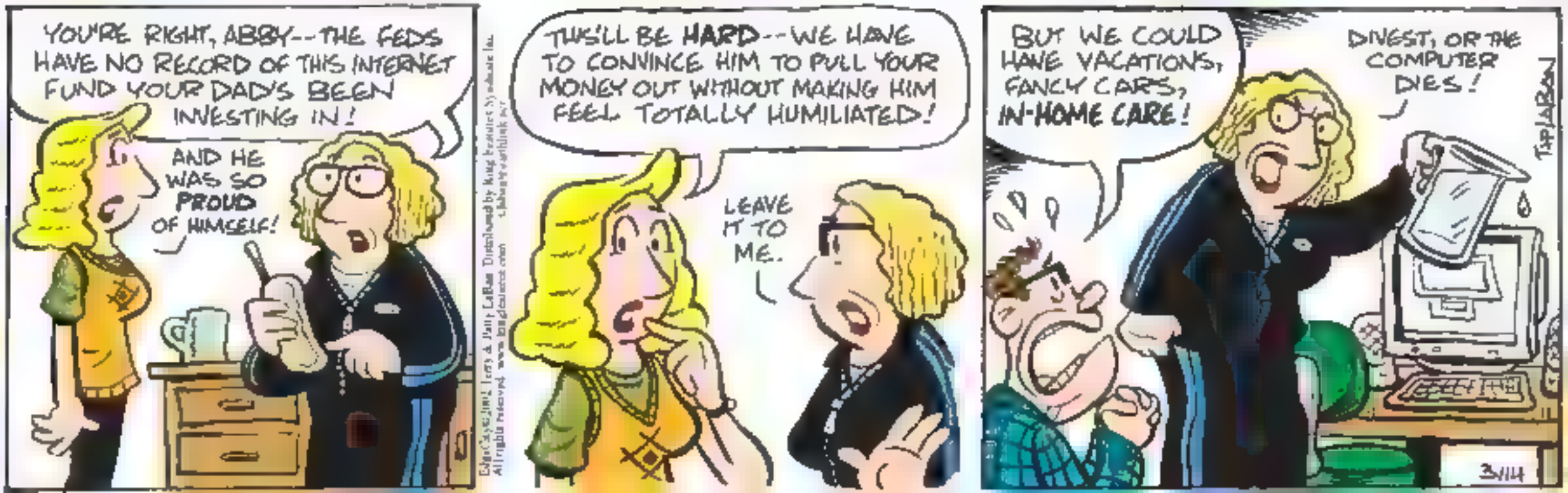
WOW! AFTER 40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE? THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!

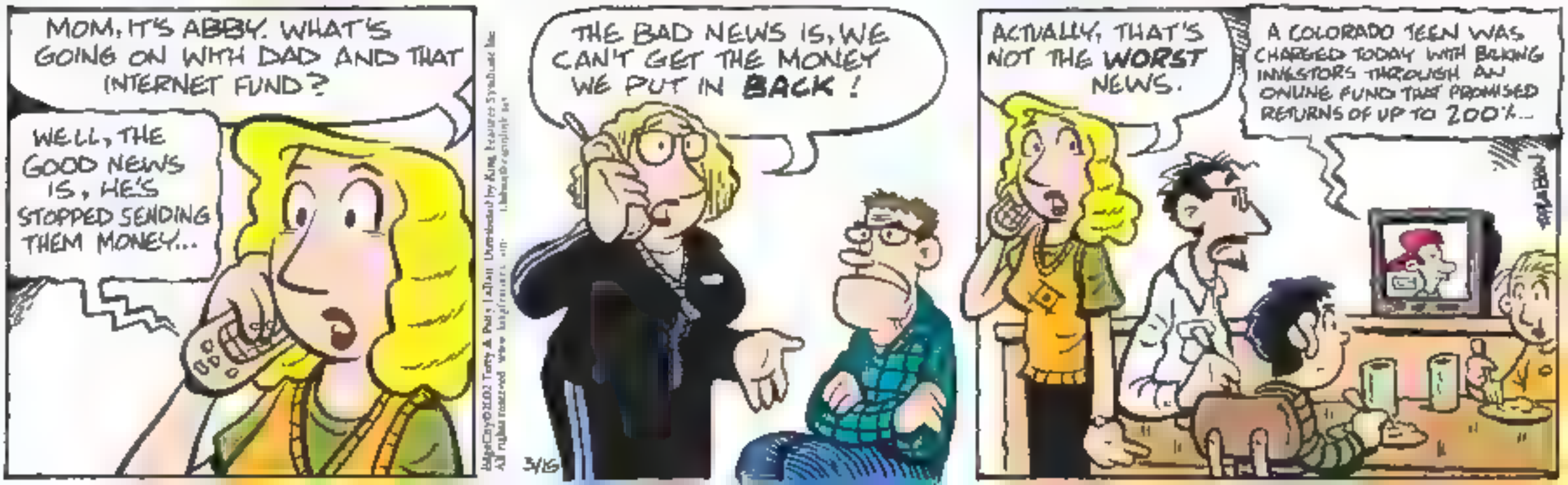
GUESS THE GUY STILL HAS SOMETHING GOING ON!
SOMETIMES YOU SCARE ME, LEN. YOU KNOW THAT?
TAPLABON

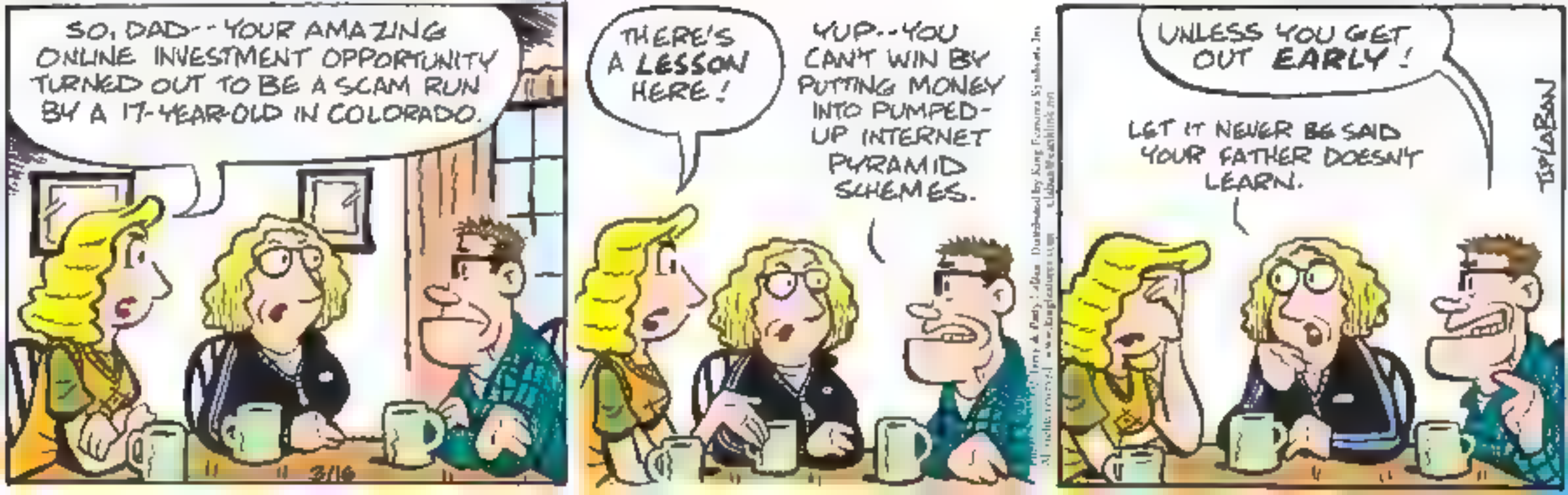

ABBY, IT'S MOM. YOUR DAD FINALLY CAME CLEAN--AND HE'S NOT HAVING AN ONLINE AFFAIR!
GREAT! YOU MUST BE RELIEVED!
WHAT HAS HE BEEN DOING?
INVESTING OUR SAVINGS IN A MYSTERIOUS FUND THAT PROMISES RETURNS OF UP TO 200%!
3/11
SO MUCH FOR RELIEF.
COULD YOU COME OVER? HE'S ABOUT TO SELL THE T-BILLS.
TAPLABAN

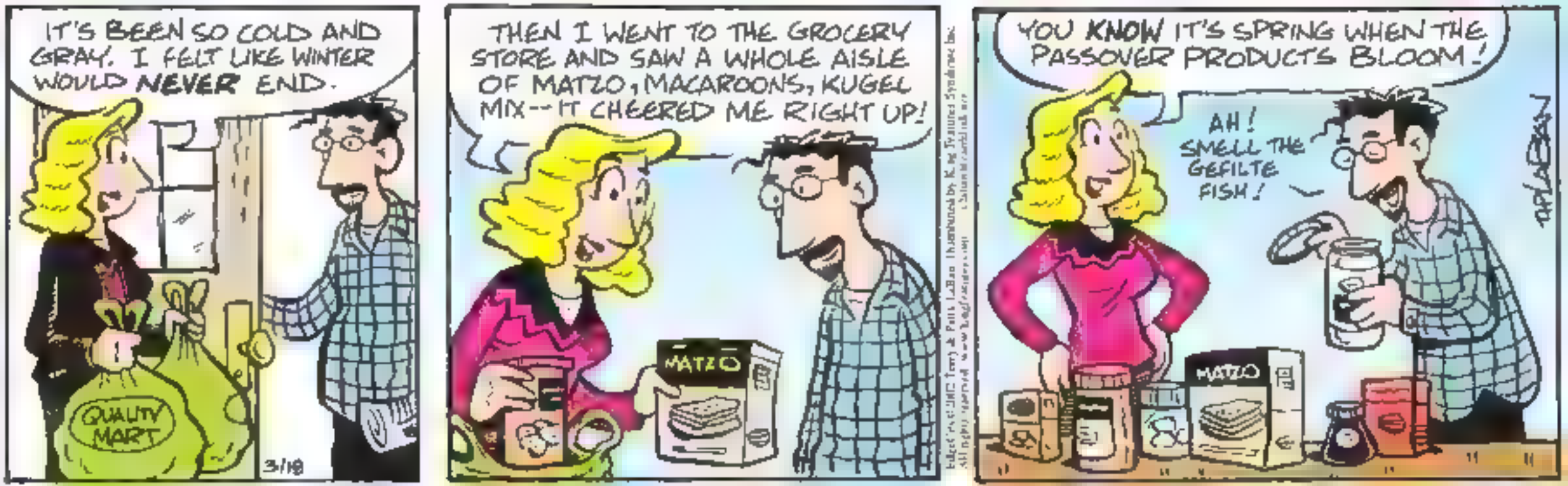

DAD, YOU'VE BEEN INVESTING YOUR SAVINGS IN A FLY-BY-NIGHT INTERNET FUND?
ABBY, IT'S NOT FLY-BY-NIGHT!
LOOK HOW MUCH OUR MONEY HAS GROWN ALREADY. IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS, WE'LL BE MILLIONAIRES!
IF I PUT IN ANOTHER $5000, I GET TO JOIN THE "WINNER'S CIRCLE"!
OH--IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL IT?

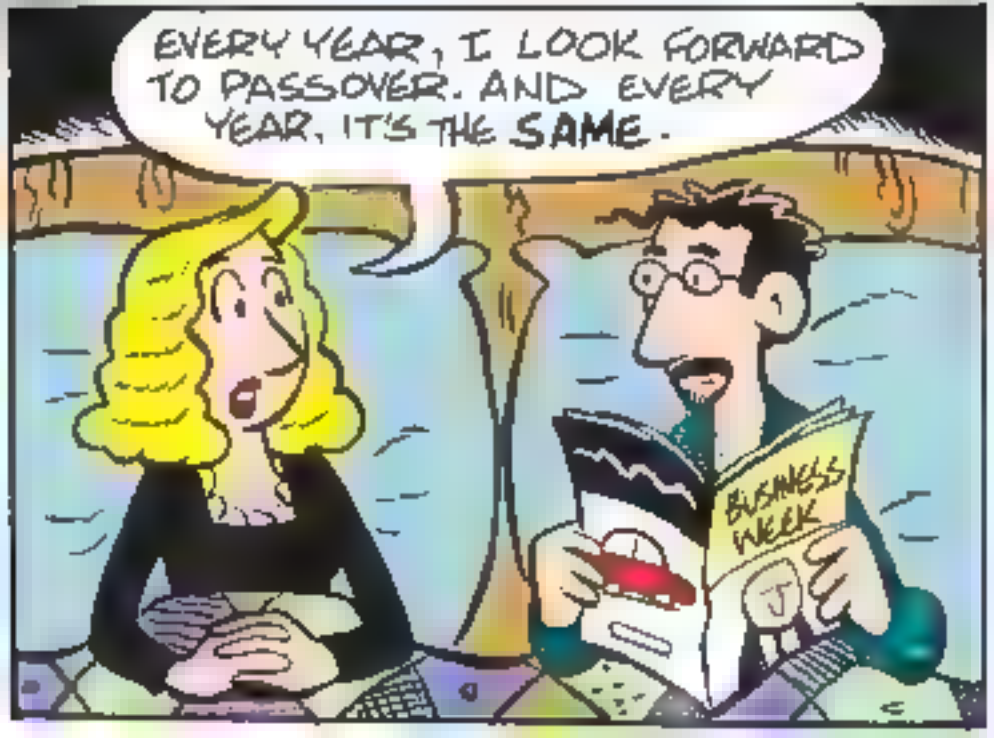

DAD, AN INTERNET FUND WITH RETURNS OF UP TO 200%? IT'S GOT TO BE A SCAM!
THEY WARNED US ABOUT SKEPTICS LIKE YOU!
IF WE WANT TO GET RICH, WE HAVE TO HAVE FAITH! WE HAVE TO IGNORE THE VOICES OF DOUBT AND DEFEAT!
3/13
HOW ABOUT THE VOICES OF COMMON SENSE?
♫I'M IN THE MONEY!... I'M IN THE MONEY!...♪
TURNER


YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY--THE FEDS HAVE NO RECORD OF THIS INTERNET FUND YOUR DADDY'S BEEN INVESTING IN!
AND HE WAS SO PROUD OF HIMSELF!
THIS'LL BE HARD--WE HAVE TO CONVINCE HIM TO PULL YOUR MONEY OUT WITHOUT MAKING HIM FEEL TOTALLY HUMILIATED!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
BUT WE COULD HAVE VACATIONS, FANCY CARS, IN-HOME CARE!
DINGST, OR THE COMPUTER DIES!
3/14


MOM, IT'S ABBY. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH DAD AND THAT INTERNET FUND?
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS, HE'S STOPPED SENDING THEM MONEY...
THE BAD NEWS IS, WE CAN'T GET THE MONEY WE PUT IN BACK!
3/16
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT THE WORST NEWS.
A COLORADO TEEN WAS CHARGED TODAY WITH BILKING INVESTORS THROUGH AN ONLINE FUND THAT PROMISED RETURNS OF UP TO 200%...


SO, DAD-- YOUR AMAZING ONLINE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TURNED OUT TO BE A SCAM RUN BY A 17-YEAR-OLD IN COLORADO.
THERE'S A LESSON HERE!
YUP--YOU CAN'T WIN BY PUTTING MONEY INTO PUMPED-UP INTERNET PYRAMID SCHEMES.
UNLESS YOU GET OUT EARLY!
LET IT NEVER BE SAID YOUR FATHER DOESN'T LEARN.
TOPLABAN


IT'S BEEN SO COLD AND GRAY. I FELT LIKE WINTER WOULD NEVER END.
QUALITY MART
3/18
THEN I WENT TO THE GROCERY STORE AND SAW A WHOLE AISLE OF MATZO, MACAROONS, KUGEL MIX -- IT CHEERED ME RIGHT UP!
MATZO
YOU KNOW IT'S SPRING WHEN THE PASSOVER PRODUCTS BLOOM!
AH! SMELL THE GEFILTE FISH!
MATZO



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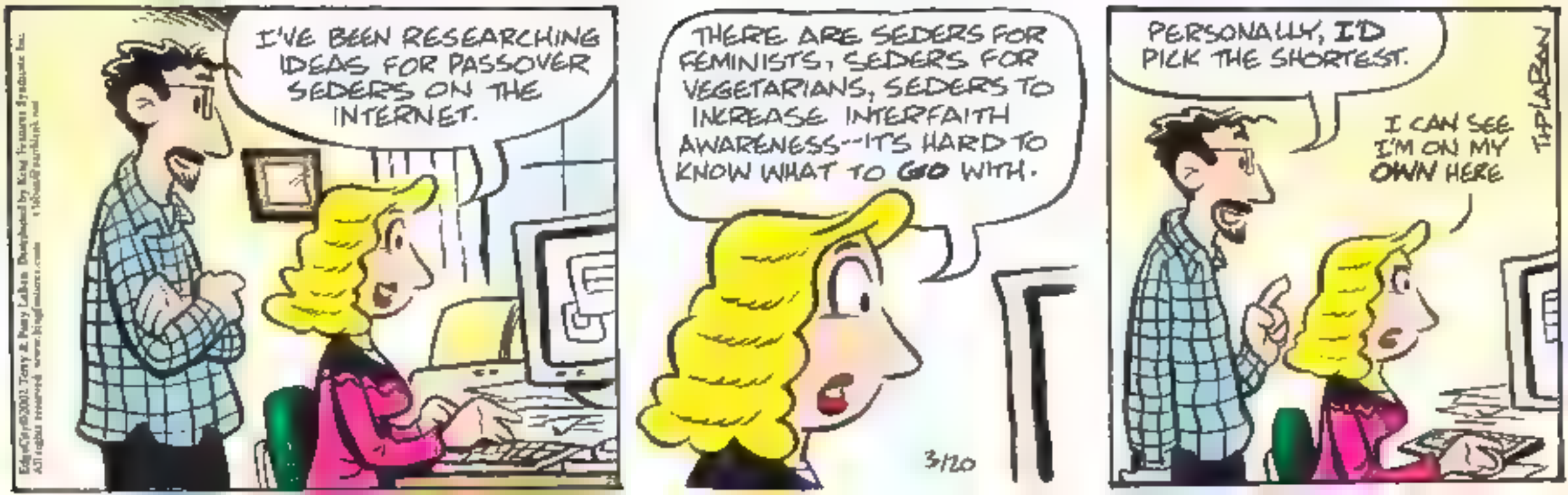
I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING IDEAS FOR PASSOVER SEDERS ON THE INTERNET.
THERE ARE SEDERS FOR FEMINISTS, SEDERS FOR VEGETARIANS, SEDERS TO INCREASE INTERFAITH AWARENESS--IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO GO WITH.
3/20
PERSONALLY, I'D PICK THE SHORTEST.
I CAN SEE I'M ON MY OWN HERE
TIPLABON

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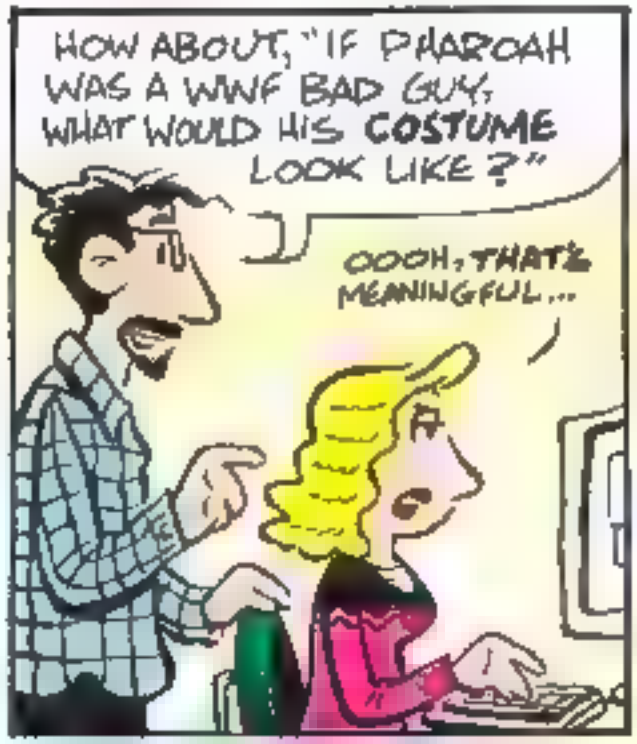

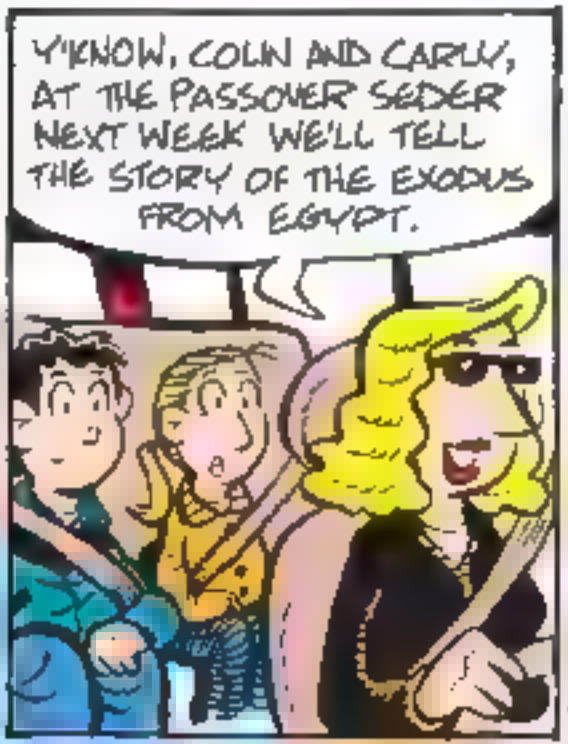

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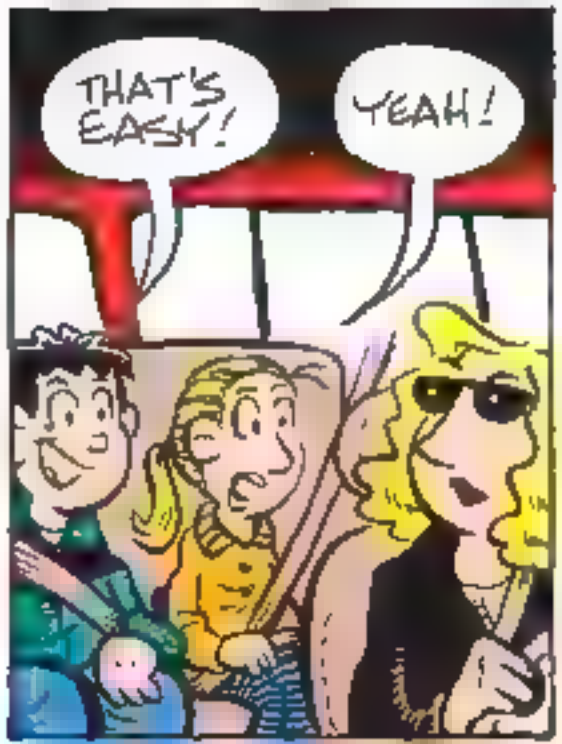
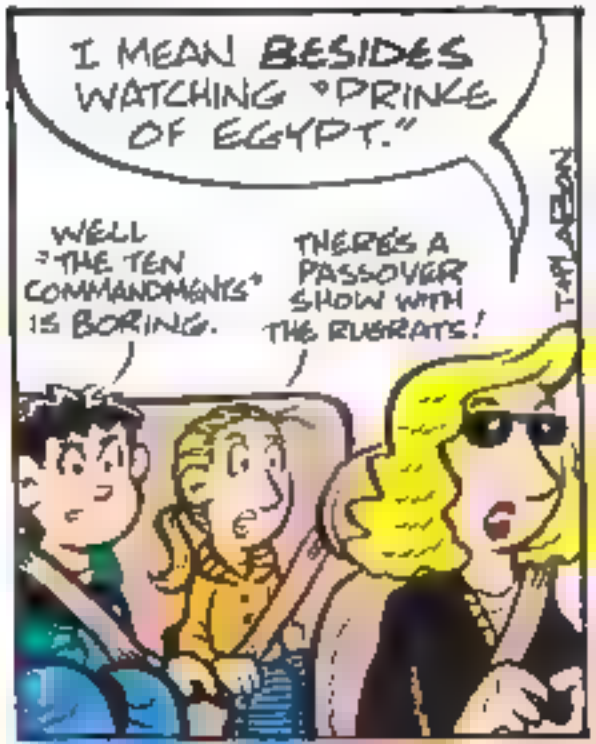
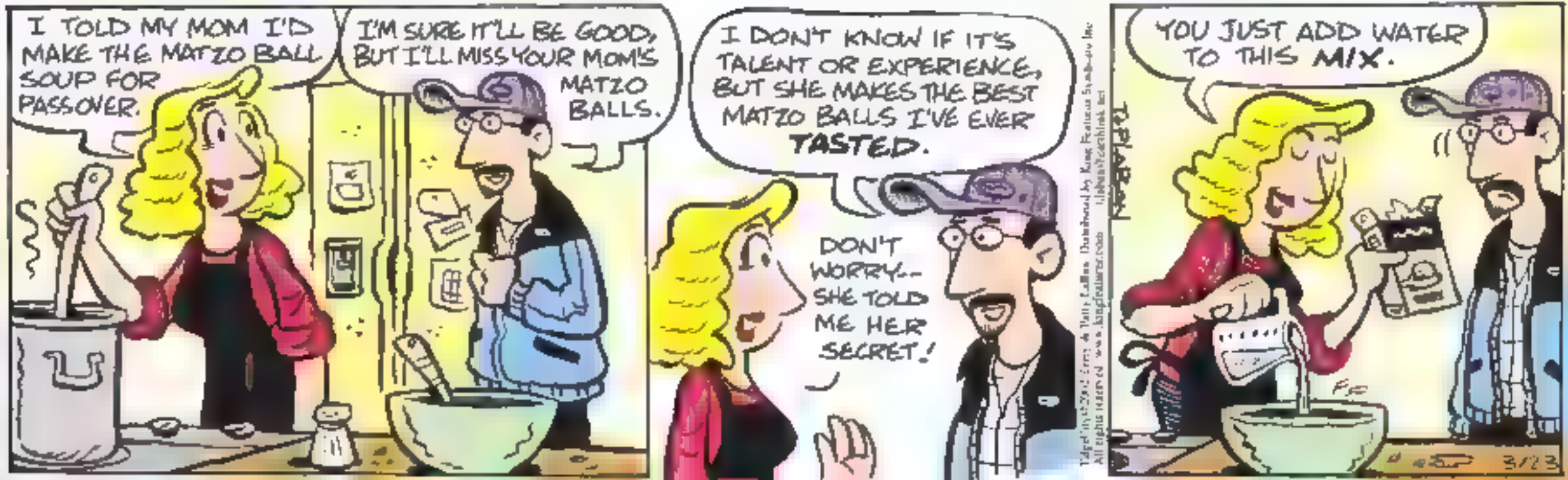
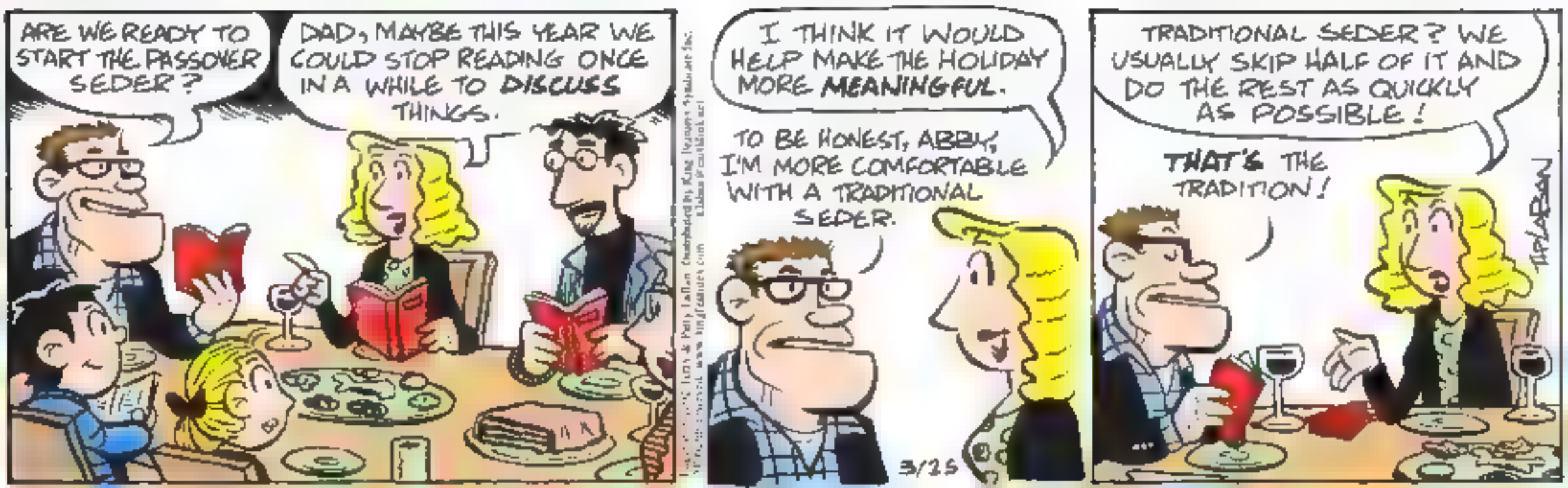
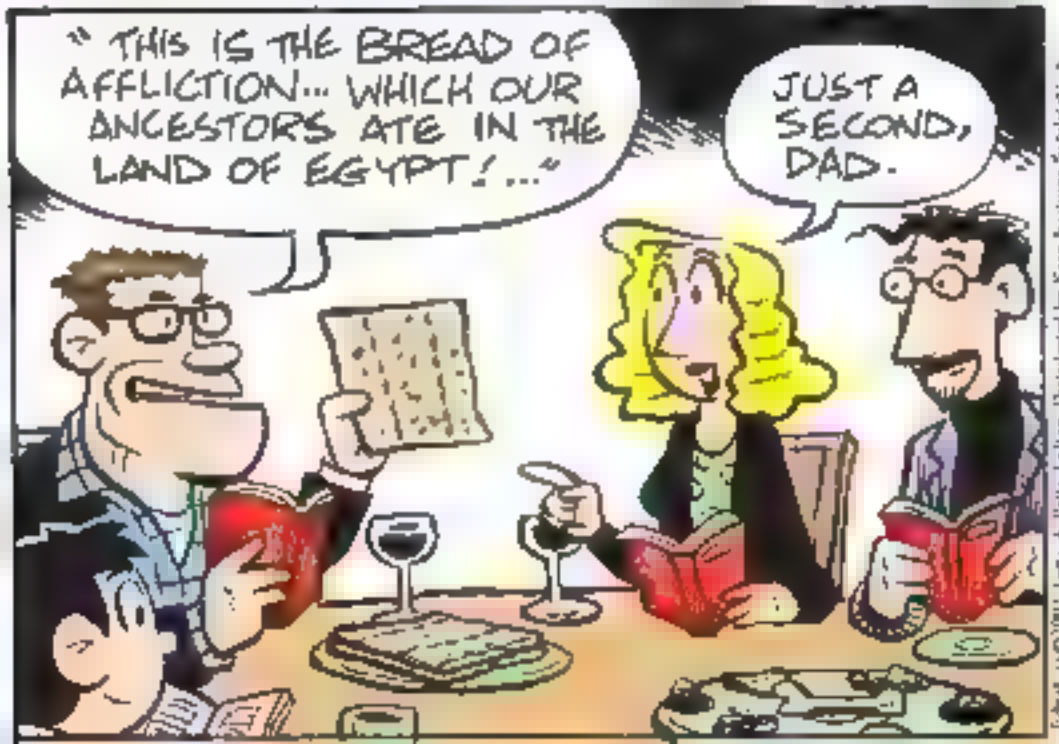




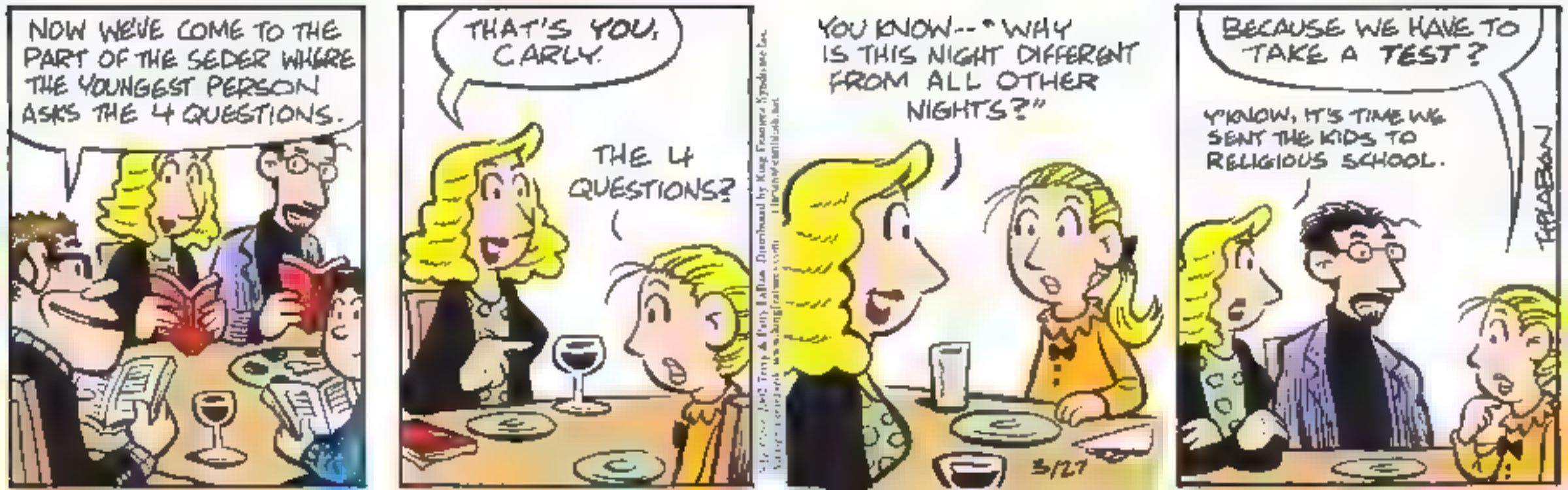

I TOLD MY MOM I'D MAKE THE MATZO BALL SOUP FOR PASSOVER.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE GOOD, BUT I'LL MISS YOUR MOM'S MATZO BALLS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TALENT OR EXPERIENCE, BUT SHE MAKES THE BEST MATZO BALLS I'VE EVER TASTED.
DON'T WORRY... SHE TOLD ME HER SECRET!
YOU JUST ADD WATER TO THIS MIX.
3/23

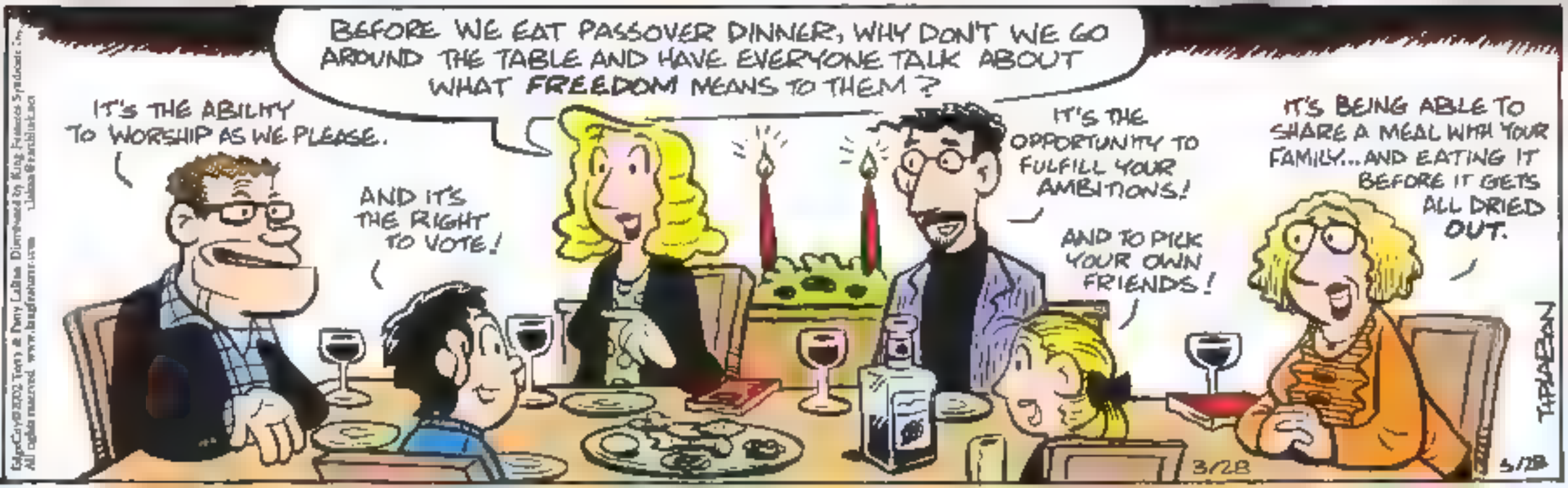

ARE WE READY TO START THE PASSOVER SEDER?
DAD, MAYBE THIS YEAR WE COULD STOP READING ONCE IN A WHILE TO DISCUSS THINGS.
I THINK IT WOULD HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAY MORE MEANINGFUL.
TO BE HONEST, ABBY, I'M MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A TRADITIONAL SEDER.
3/25
TRADITIONAL SEDER? WE USUALLY SKIP HALF OF IT AND DO THE REST AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
THAT'S THE TRADITION!
TAPLABAN

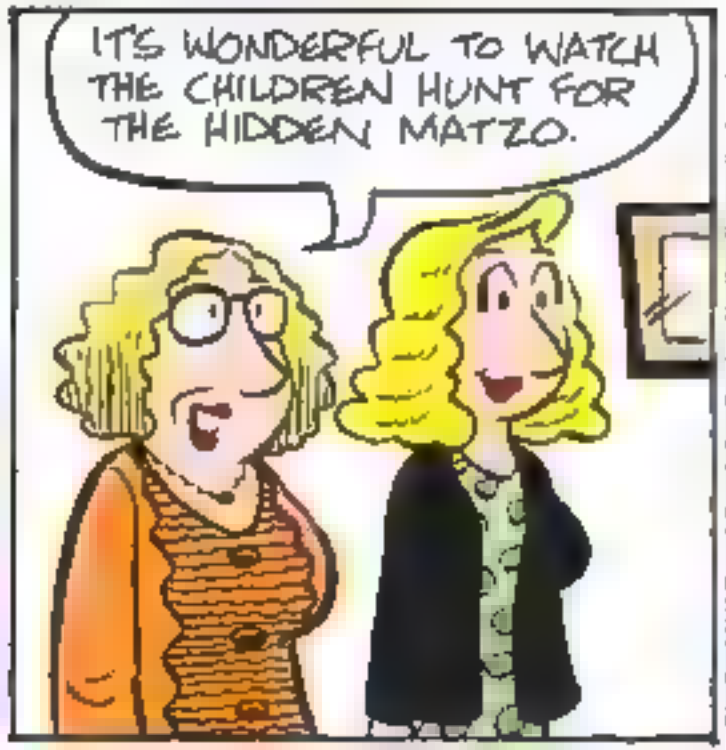

" THIS IS THE BREAD OF AFFLICTION... WHICH OUR ANCESTORS ATE IN THE LAND OF EGYPT!..."
JUST A SECOND, DAD.

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHY MATZO IS CALLED "THE BREAD OF AFFLICTION"?
3/26

ANYONE WHO'S EATEN IT FOR 8 DAYS STRAIGHT CAN TELL YOU THAT!


NOW WE'VE COME TO THE PART OF THE SEDER WHERE THE YOUNGEST PERSON ASKS THE 4 QUESTIONS.
THAT'S YOU, CARLY.
THE 4 QUESTIONS?
YOU KNOW--"WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS?"
3/27
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TAKE A TEST?
Y'KNOW, IT'S TIME WE SENT THE KIDS TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.
TRIBAN


BEFORE WE EAT PASSOVER DINNER, WHY DON'T WE GO AROUND THE TABLE AND HAVE EVERYONE TALK ABOUT WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO THEM?
IT'S THE ABILITY TO WORSHIP AS WE PLEASE.
AND IT'S THE RIGHT TO VOTE!
IT'S THE OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL YOUR AMBITIONS!
AND TO PICK YOUR OWN FRIENDS!
IT'S BEING ABLE TO SHARE A MEAL WITH YOUR FAMILY... AND EATING IT BEFORE IT GETS ALL DRIED OUT.
3/28
TURAGEN



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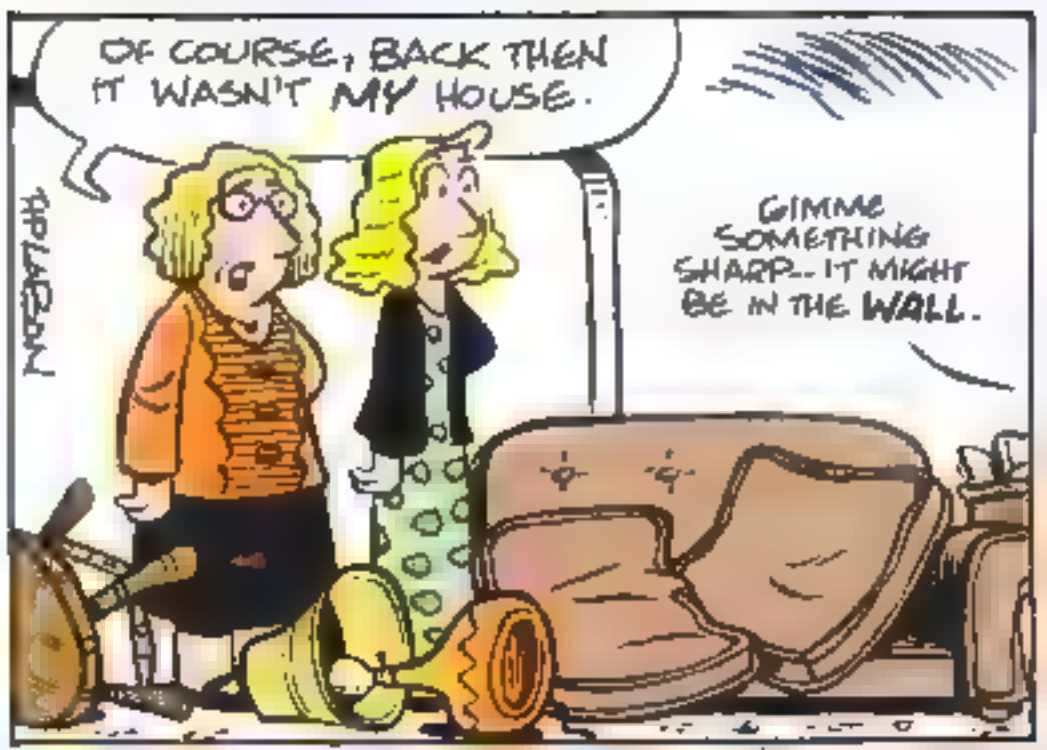
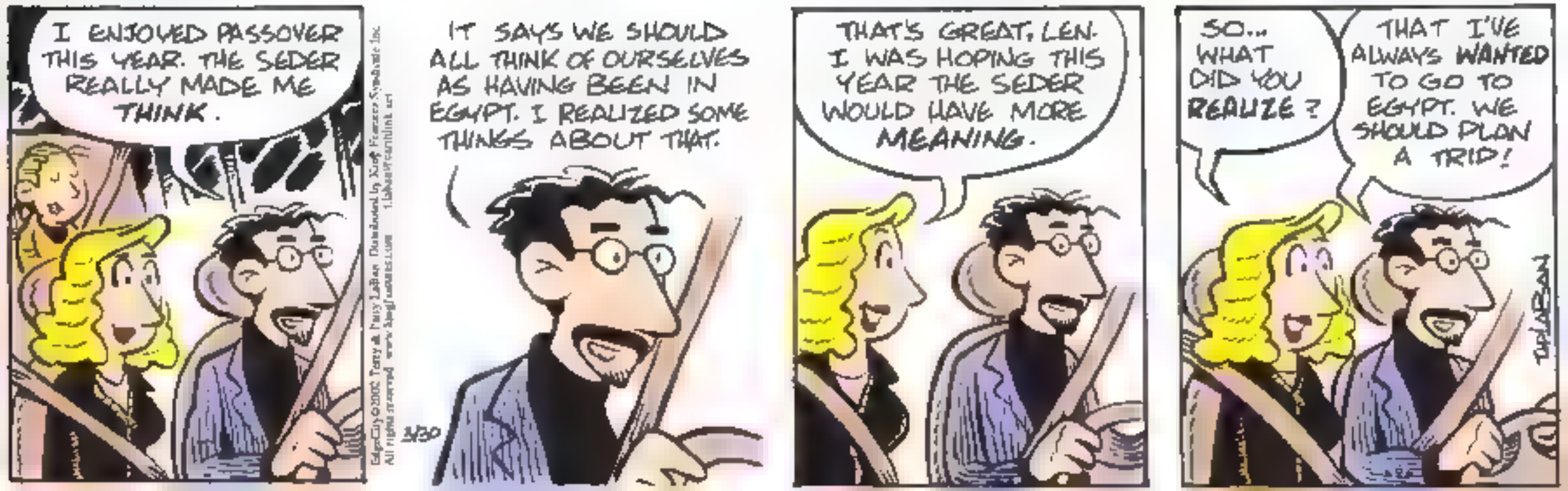
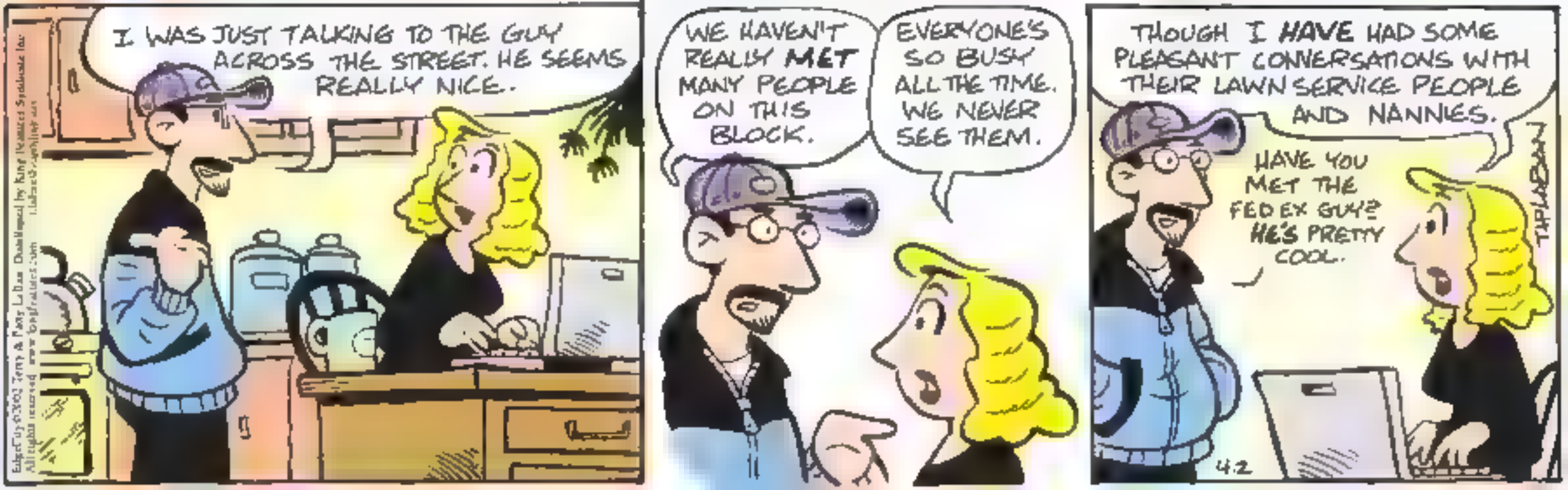


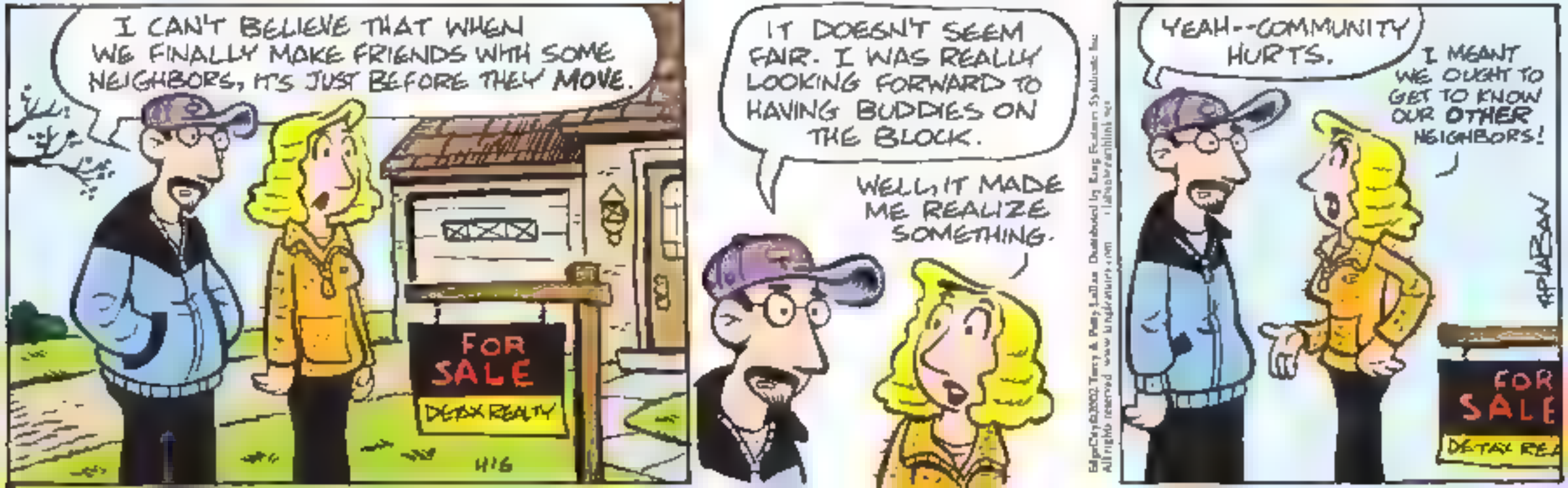

I ENJOYED PASSOVER THIS YEAR. THE SEDER REALLY MADE ME THINK.
IT SAYS WE SHOULD ALL THINK OF OURSELVES AS HAVING BEEN IN EGYPT. I REALIZED SOME THINGS ABOUT THAT.
3/30
THAT'S GREAT, LEN. I WAS HOPING THIS YEAR THE SEDER WOULD HAVE MORE MEANING.
SO... WHAT DID YOU REALIZE?
THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO EGYPT. WE SHOULD PLAN A TRIP!
TUPLABAN

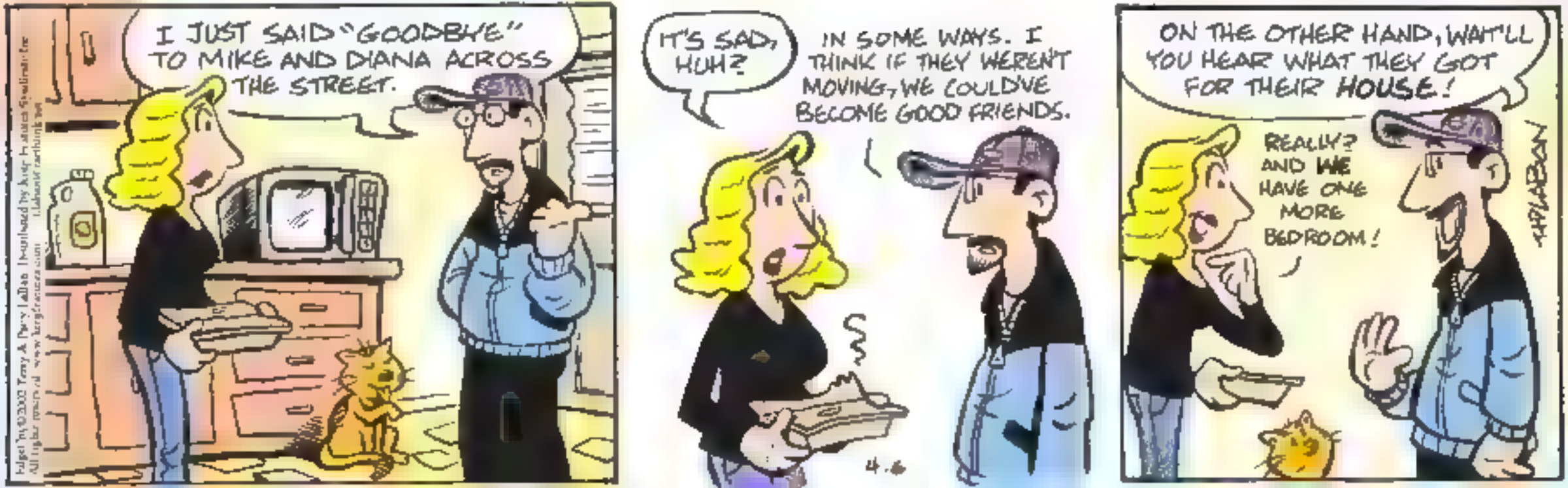
I'M LENARDIN FROM ACROSS THE STREET. THIS WAS DELIVERED TO ME BY MISTAKE.
THANKS!
Y'KNOW, I ORDER MUSIC FROM THAT WEBSITE ALL THE TIME. WHAT'D YOU GET?
A ROCKABILLY COLLECTION AND A CD OF INDIAN FILM MUSIC.
COOL! HAVE YOU GUYS LIVED HERE LONG?
NO-- NOT REALLY.
THAT EXPLAINS WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.
YEAH--IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE OF YEARS
TRP LABRUNE
4.1

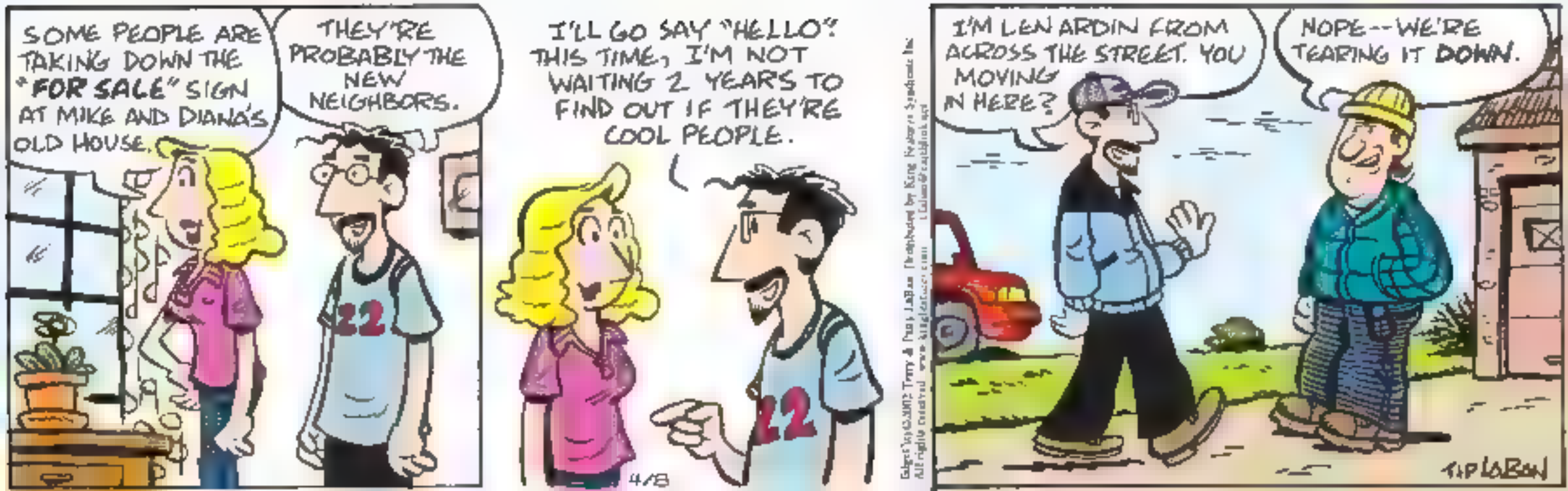

I WAS JUST TALKING TO THE GUY ACROSS THE STREET. HE SEEMS REALLY NICE.
WE HAVEN'T REALLY MET MANY PEOPLE ON THIS BLOCK.
EVERYONE'S SO BUSY ALL THE TIME. WE NEVER SEE THEM.
THOUGH I HAVE HAD SOME PLEASANT CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR LAWN SERVICE PEOPLE AND NANNIES.
HAVE YOU MET THE FED EX GUY? HE'S PRETTY COOL.
42
TAYLOR

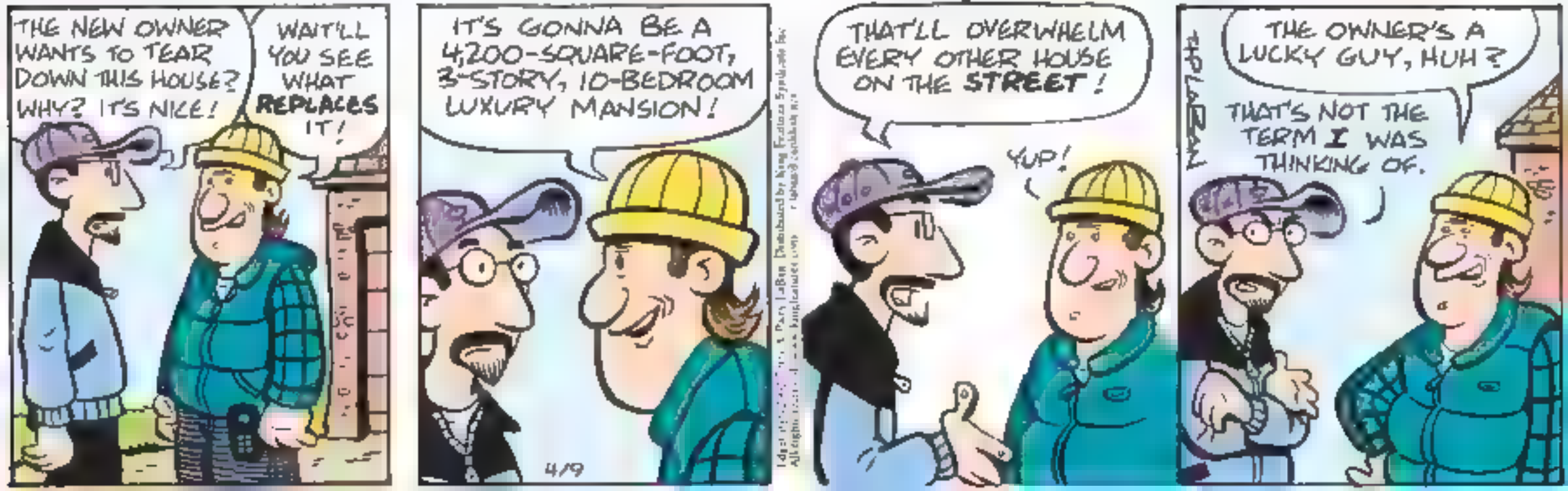
I'M KIND OF EXCITED ABOUT GETTING TO BE FRIENDS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS!
WE CAN BARBECUE IN THE SUMMER, BORROW EACH OTHER'S TOOLS...
WE CAN BE EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR EACH OTHER'S KIDS--MAYBE EVEN GO IN ON A VACATION HOME!
WHOA, LEN! AREN'T YOU MOVING KIND OF FAST THERE?
TRUE--YOU SHOULDN'T LEND SOMEONE YOUR TOOLS UNLESS YOU REALLY KNOW THEM.
TRY LABAN
4/3

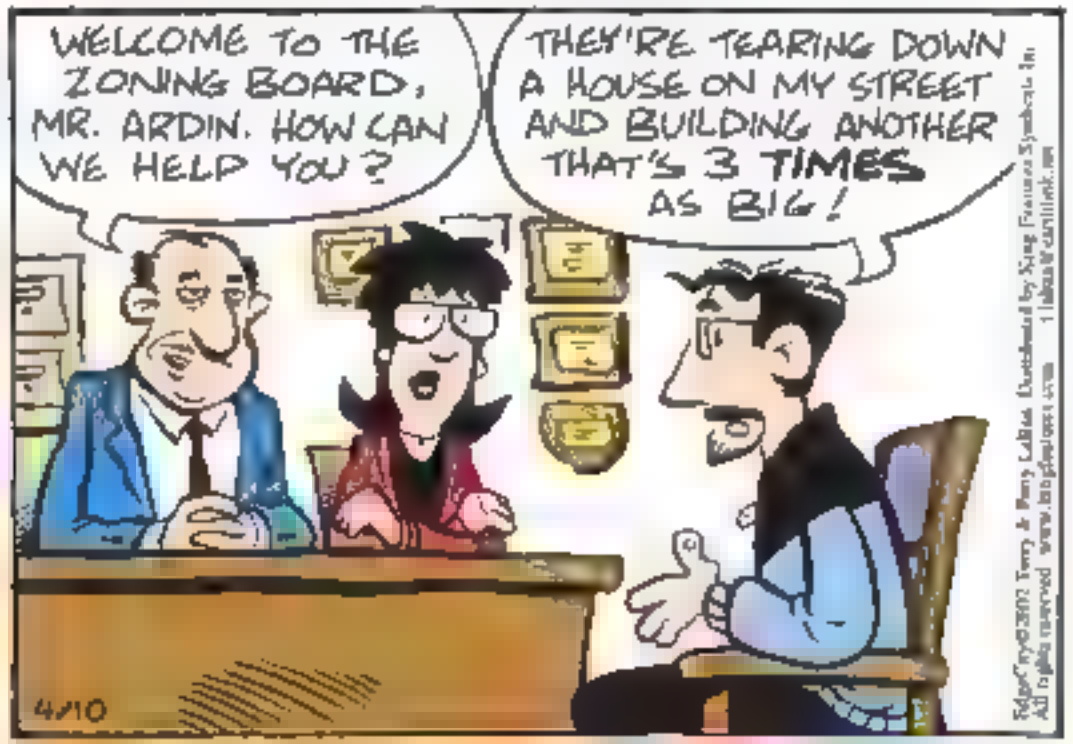
WOW, MIKE AND DIANA-- I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LIVED RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET AND DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER!
4/4
I KNOW--WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. WE SHOULDVE GOTTEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME AGO.
WELL--BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT?
YEAH. TOO BAD WE'RE ABOUT TO MOVE.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WHEN WE FINALLY MAKE FRIENDS WITH SOME NEIGHBORS, IT'S JUST BEFORE THEY MOVE.
FOR SALE
DETAX REALTY
IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR. I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING BUDDIES ON THE BLOCK.
WELL, IT MADE ME REALIZE SOMETHING.
YEAH--COMMUNITY HURTS.
I MEANT WE OUGHT TO GET TO KNOW OUR OTHER NEIGHBORS!
FOR SALE


I JUST SAID "GOODBYE" TO MIKE AND DIANA ACROSS THE STREET.
IT'S SAD, HUH?
IN SOME WAYS. I THINK IF THEY WEREN'T MOVING, WE COULD'VE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WAIT'LL YOU HEAR WHAT THEY GOT FOR THEIR HOUSE!
REALLY? AND WE HAVE ONE MORE BEDROOM!

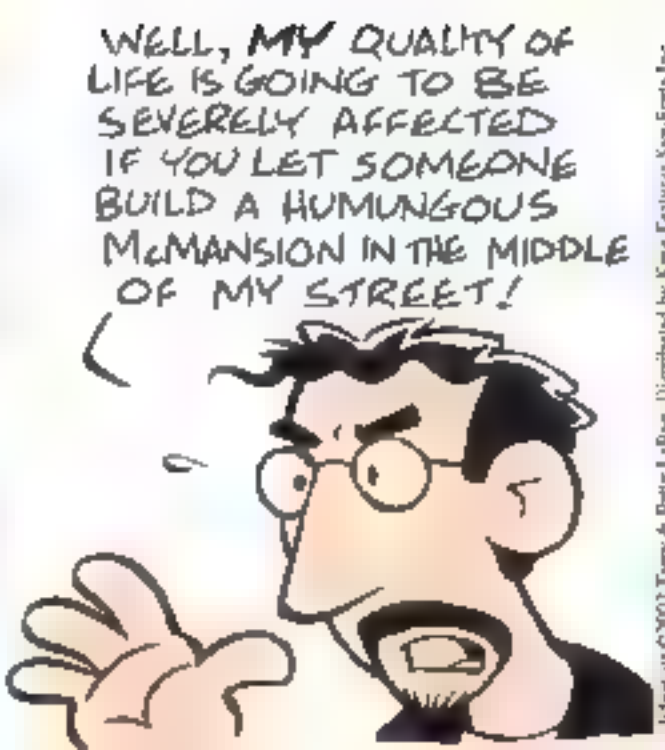

SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING DOWN THE "FOR SALE" SIGN AT MIKE AND DIANA'S OLD HOUSE.
THEY'RE PROBABLY THE NEW NEIGHBORS.
I'LL GO SAY "HELLO". THIS TIME, I'M NOT WAITING 2 YEARS TO FIND OUT IF THEY'RE COOL PEOPLE.
4/18
I'M LEN ARDIN FROM ACROSS THE STREET. YOU MOVING IN HERE?
NOPE--WE'RE TEARING IT DOWN.
TIP LABRON


THE NEW OWNER WANTS TO TEAR DOWN THIS HOUSE? WHY? IT'S NICE!
WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT REPLACES IT!
IT'S GONNA BE A 4,200-SQUARE-FOOT, 3-STORY, 10-BEDROOM LUXURY MANSION!
4/9
THAT'LL OVERWHELM EVERY OTHER HOUSE ON THE STREET!
YUP!
THE OWNER'S A LUCKY GUY, HUH?
THAT'S NOT THE TERM I WAS THINKING OF.


WELCOME TO THE ZONING BOARD, MR. ARDIN. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
THEY'RE TEARING DOWN A HOUSE ON MY STREET AND BUILDING ANOTHER THAT'S 3 TIMES AS BIG!
4/10

YOU GUYS HAVE REGULATIONS FOR CUTTING LAWNS AND PAINTING GARAGES! WHAT ABOUT THE SIZE OF HOUSES?

WELL -- YOU CAN'T BUILD THEM TOO SMALL.
IT'S ALWAYS A PLUS WHEN THE TAX ASSESSMENT GETS RAISED.



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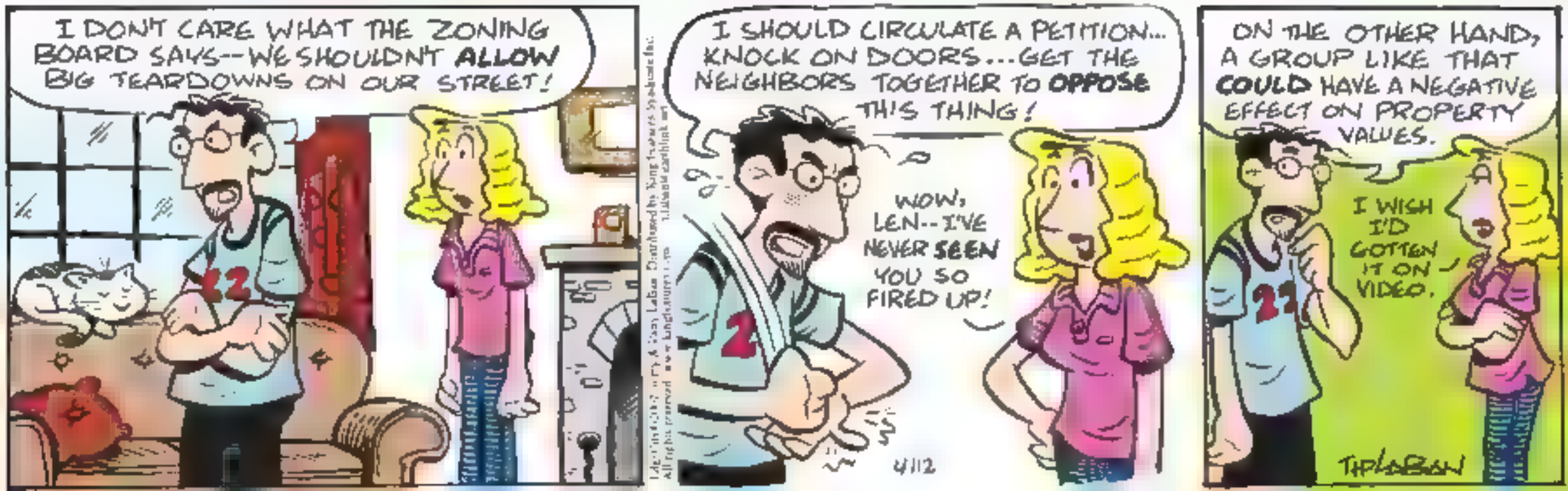
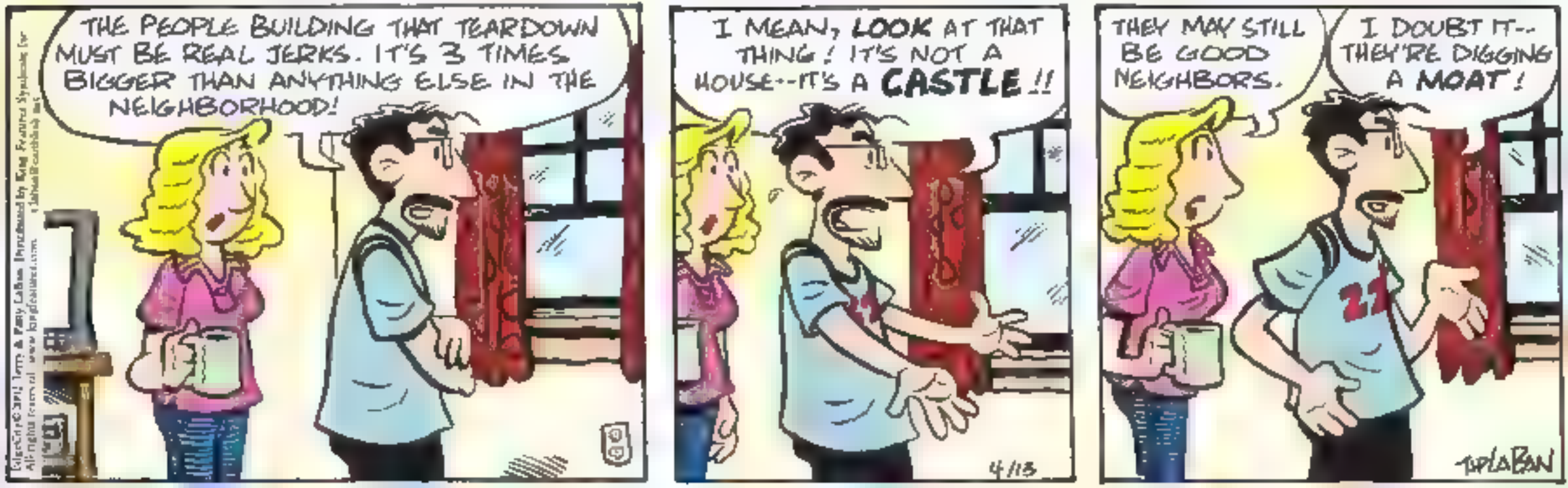
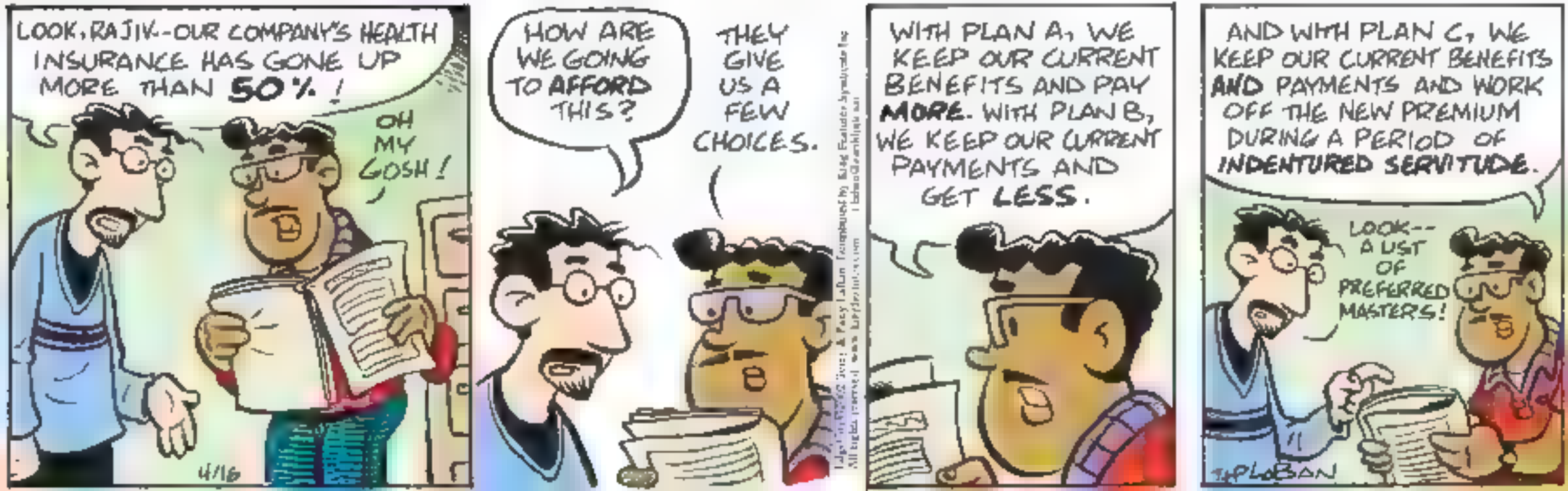

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE ZONING BOARD SAYS--WE SHOULDN'T ALLOW BIG TEARDOWNS ON OUR STREET!
I SHOULD CIRCULATE A PETITION... KNOCK ON DOORS...GET THE NEIGHBORS TOGETHER TO OPPOSE THIS THING!
WOW, LEN--I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO FIRED UP!
4/12
ON THE OTHER HAND, A GROUP LIKE THAT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PROPERTY VALUES.
I WISH I'D GOTTEN IT ON VIDEO.
THPLABAN


THE PEOPLE BUILDING THAT TEARDOWN MUST BE REAL JERKS. IT'S 3 TIMES BIGGER THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
I MEAN, LOOK AT THAT THING! IT'S NOT A HOUSE--IT'S A CASTLE!!
4/13
THEY MAY STILL BE GOOD NEIGHBORS.
I DOUBT IT-- THEY'RE DIGGING A MOAT!
TOPLABAN

YAAGH!
LEN, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
NO--IT'S OUR COMPANY'S NEW HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM!
TUPLABAN


LOOK, RAJIV--OUR COMPANY'S HEALTH INSURANCE HAS GONE UP MORE THAN 50%!
OH MY GOSH!
4/16
HOW ARE WE GOING TO AFFORD THIS?
THEY GIVE US A FEW CHOICES.
WITH PLAN A, WE KEEP OUR CURRENT BENEFITS AND PAY MORE. WITH PLAN B, WE KEEP OUR CURRENT PAYMENTS AND GET LESS.
AND WITH PLAN C, WE KEEP OUR CURRENT BENEFITS AND PAYMENTS AND WORK OFF THE NEW PREMIUM DURING A PERIOD OF INDENTURED SERVITUDE.
LOOK-- A LIST OF PREFERRED MASTERS!
T.PLOBAN

HUMONGOUS LIFE? THIS IS LEN ARDIN, FROM LEADFOOT COURIERS. IT'S ABOUT OUR COMPANY'S HEALTH INSURANCE.

OUR PREMIUM HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR, BUT THIS YEAR IT'S UP MORE THAN 50%!
4/17

ALL YOUR CLIENTS HAVE SEEN BIG INCREASES? CAN YOU TELL ME WHY?

BECAUSE THE OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES INCREASED THEIR PREMIUMS.
SOMETIMES I THINK WE'RE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS!
THAPLABAN

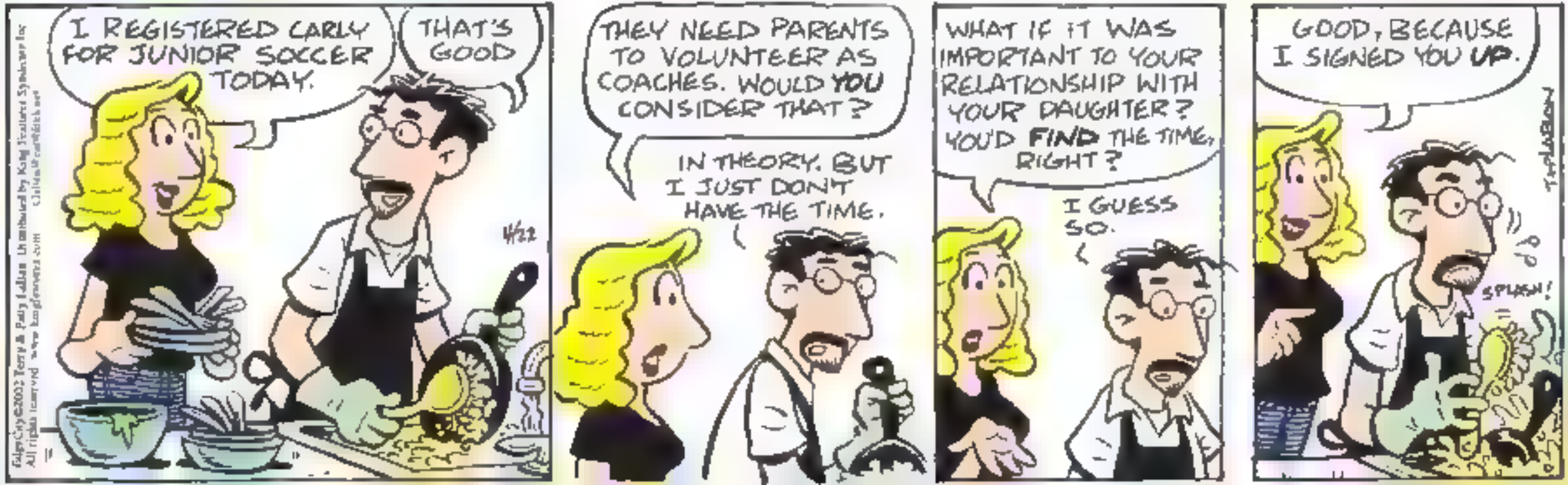
THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO PAY FOR OUR HIGHER HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM.
WE CAN PASS THE COST ON TO OUR CUSTOMERS, PASS IT TO OUR EMPLOYEES, OR TAKE IT OUT OF OUR PROFITS.
4/18
IT WOULDN'T BE UNFAIR TO ASK THE EMPLOYEES FOR A LITTLE MORE.
REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE TRIED THAT?
WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT SOME RESISTANCE!
LEN, WE SPENT 2 HOURS BARRICADED IN THE SUPPLY CLOSET!

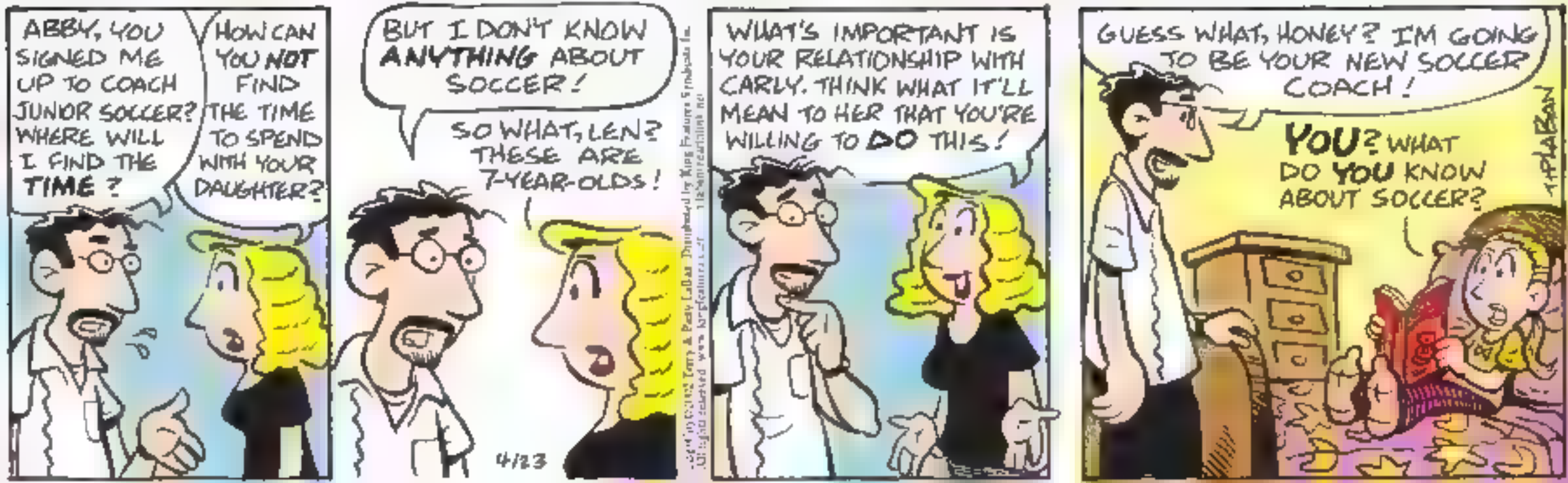
Y'KNOW, WE COULD COVER THE COST OF OUR COMPANY'S NEW INSURANCE PREMIUM BY NOT FILLING THAT CLERICAL POSITION AND WORKING MORE HOURS.
I CAN'T WORK MORE HOURS, RAJIV! I HAVE A FAMILY!
WELL, I COULD DO IT. I'D HAVE TO MAKE MORE, BUT IT'D BE CHEAPER THAN HIRING SOMEONE.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- WE'RE GOING TO SAVE MONEY BY GIVING YOU A RAISE?
YOUR CHILDREN WILL THANK ME.

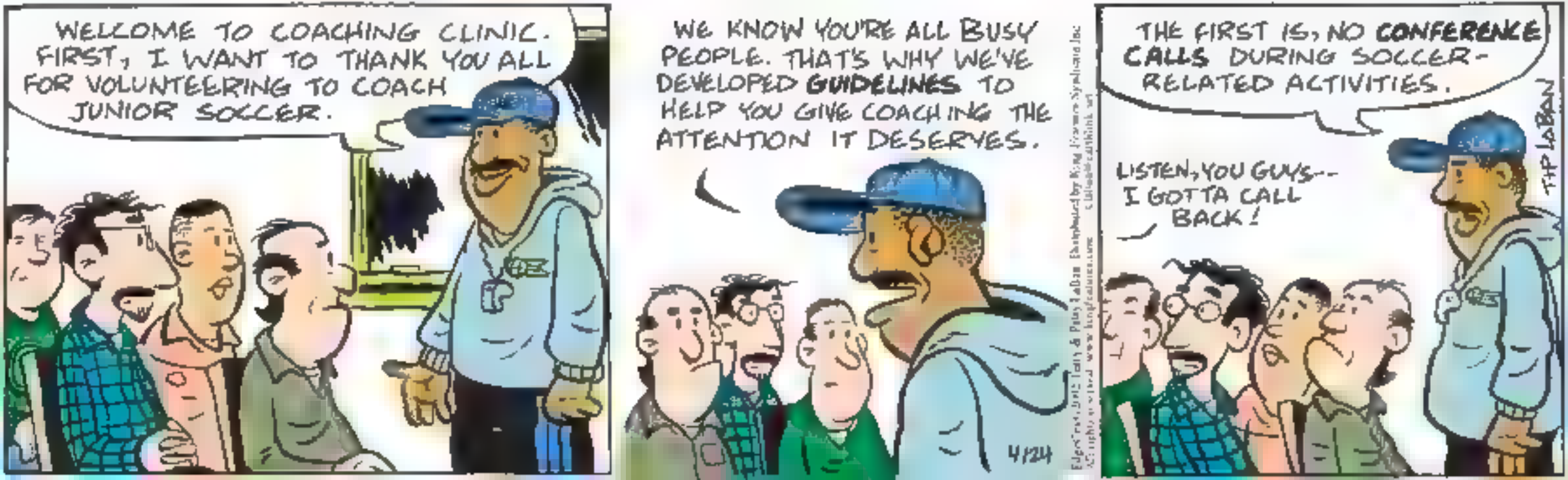
RUNNING A SMALL BUSINESS IS DIFFICULT, RAJIV.
4/20

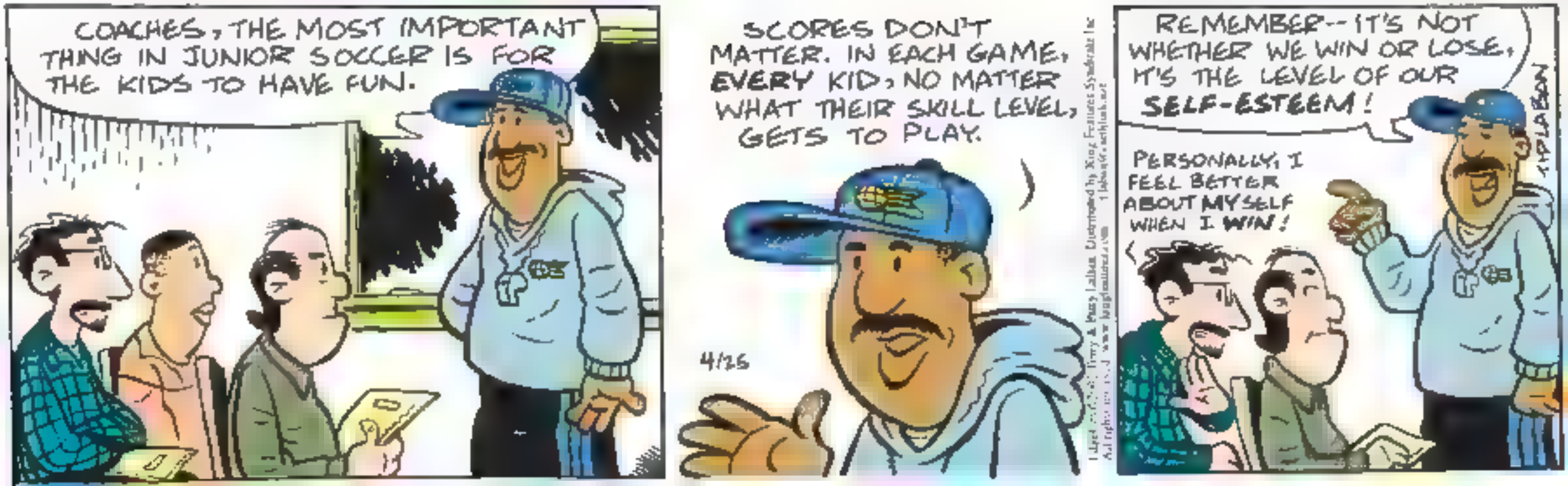
I'D LIKE TO GROW THE COMPANY--BUT WE'RE ALWAYS DEALING WITH SO MANY PROBLEMS.

LEN, IF OUR BUSINESS WAS BIGGER, WE'D HAVE EVEN MORE PROBLEMS.
YEAH--BUT THEN WE COULD HIRE SOMEONE ELSE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

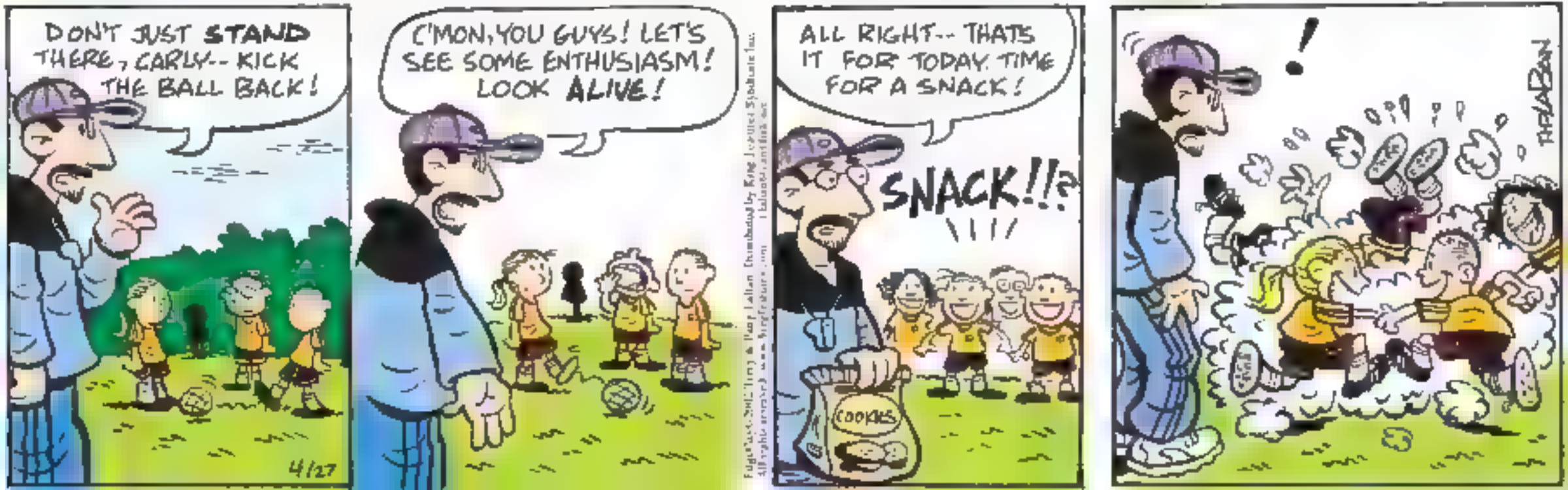

I REGISTERED CARLY FOR JUNIOR SOCCER TODAY.
THAT'S GOOD
4/22
THEY NEED PARENTS TO VOLUNTEER AS COACHES. WOULD YOU CONSIDER THAT?
IN THEORY. BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME.
WHAT IF IT WAS IMPORTANT TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR DAUGHTER? YOU'D FIND THE TIME, RIGHT?
I GUESS SO.
GOOD, BECAUSE I SIGNED YOU UP.
SPLASH!

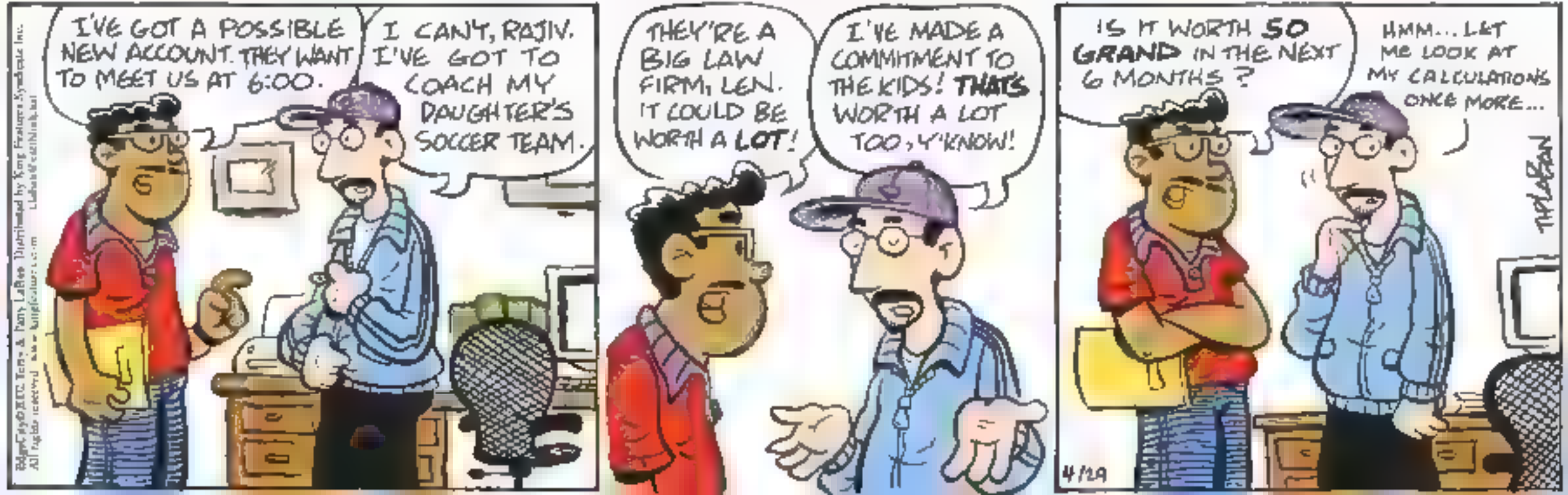

ABBY, YOU SIGNED ME UP TO COACH JUNIOR SOCCER? WHERE WILL I FIND THE TIME?
HOW CAN YOU NOT FIND THE TIME TO SPEND WITH YOUR DAUGHTER?
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SOCCER!
SO WHAT, LEN? THESE ARE 7-YEAR-OLDS!
4/23
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CARLY. THINK WHAT IT'LL MEAN TO HER THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO DO THIS!
GUESS WHAT, HONEY? I'M GOING TO BE YOUR NEW SOCCER COACH!
YOU? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SOCCER?


WELCOME TO COACHING CLINIC. FIRST, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR VOLUNTEERING TO COACH JUNIOR SOCCER.
WE KNOW YOU'RE ALL BUSY PEOPLE. THAT'S WHY WE'VE DEVELOPED GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU GIVE COACHING THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.
4/24
THE FIRST IS, NO CONFERENCE CALLS DURING SOCCER-RELATED ACTIVITIES.
LISTEN, YOU GUYS-- I GOTTA CALL BACK!

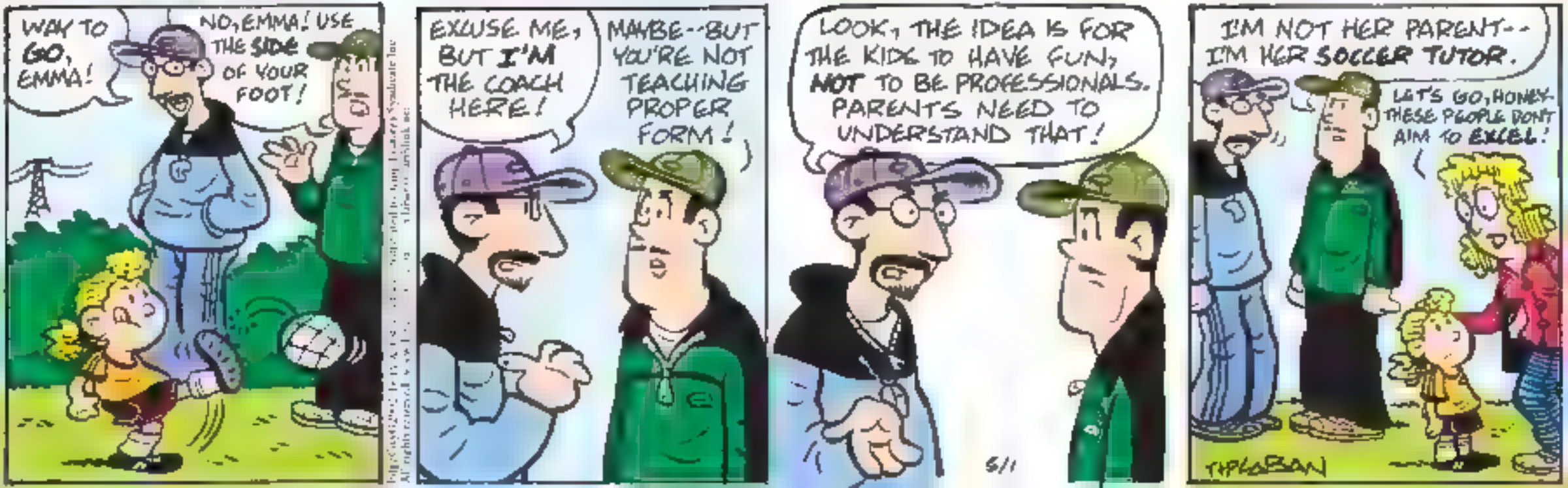

COACHES, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN JUNIOR SOCCER IS FOR THE KIDS TO HAVE FUN.
SCORES DON'T MATTER. IN EACH GAME, EVERY KID, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SKILL LEVEL, GETS TO PLAY.
4/25
REMEMBER-- IT'S NOT WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE, IT'S THE LEVEL OF OUR SELF-ESTEEM!
PERSONALLY, I FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF WHEN I WIN!

I'M EXCITED ABOUT YOU COACHING MY SOCCER TEAM, DAD!
YOU CAN MAKE SURE I GET TO PLAY A LOT, SCORE LOTS OF GOALS, AND GET EXTRA SNACKS!
HONEY, I'M EVERYONE'S COACH! I CAN'T LET THE OTHER KIDS THINK I'M TREATING YOU DIFFERENTLY.
UNDERSTAND?
4/26
RIGHT-- WE'VE GOT TO KEEP IT VERY QUIET!
OK-- I'LL EXPLAIN THIS AGAIN...
TWIPLARSEN

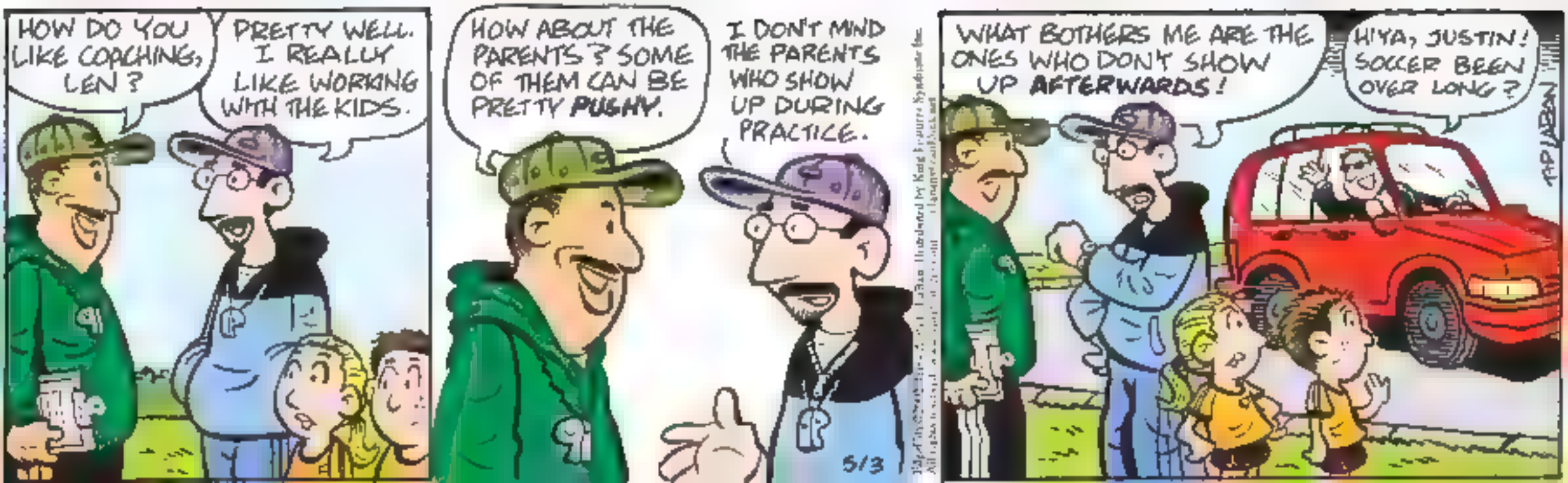

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, CARLY-- KICK THE BALL BACK!
4/27
C'MON, YOU GUYS! LET'S SEE SOME ENTHUSIASM! LOOK ALIVE!
ALL RIGHT-- THATS IT FOR TODAY. TIME FOR A SNACK!
SNACK!!?
COOKIES
!


I'VE GOT A POSSIBLE NEW ACCOUNT. THEY WANT TO MEET US AT 6:00.
I CAN'T, RAJIV. I'VE GOT TO COACH MY DAUGHTER'S SOCCER TEAM.
THEY'RE A BIG LAW FIRM, LEN. IT COULD BE WORTH A LOT!
I'VE MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE KIDS! THAT'S WORTH A LOT TOO, Y'KNOW!
IS IT WORTH 50 GRAND IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS?
HMM... LET ME LOOK AT MY CALCULATIONS ONCE MORE...
4/29

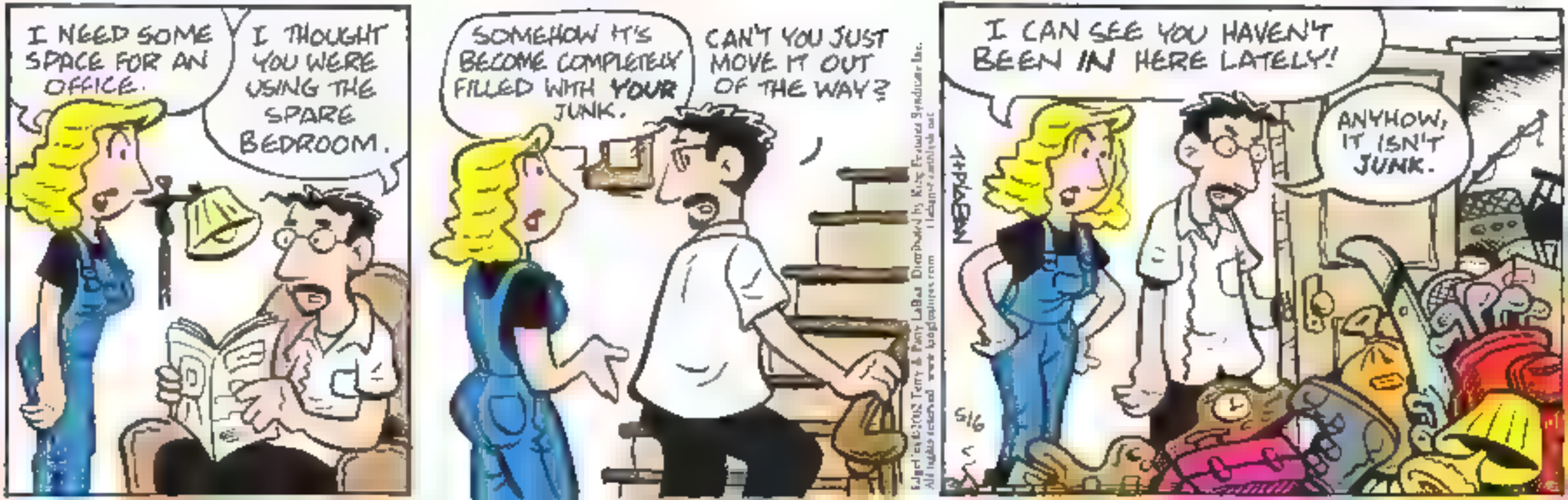
I THOUGHT ALL THE JUNIOR SOCCER RULES ABOUT TEAMWORK AND FAIRNESS WOULD BE A HARD SELL.
I EXPECTED THE KIDS WOULD JUST NATURALLY TEST EACH OTHER.
OOPS! I MISSED IT!
4/30
THAT'S OK, HOWARD--DON'T FEEL BAD.
IT WAS GOING FAST.
YOU'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
ACTUALLY, THOUGH, THEY'VE TAKEN TO IT PRETTY WELL.
YOU'RE GOOD AT OTHER THINGS.
YOU WANT A BACKRUB?

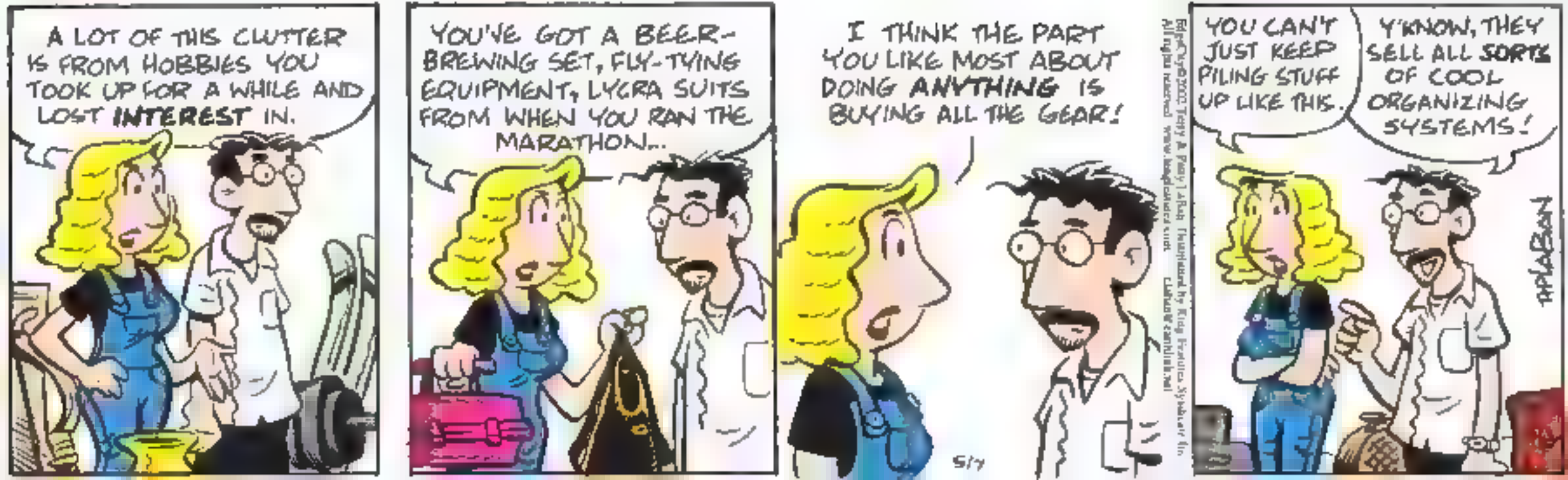

WAY TO GO, EMMA!
NO, EMMA! USE THE SIDE OF YOUR FOOT!
EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M THE COACH HERE!
MAYBE--BUT YOU'RE NOT TEACHING PROPER FORM!
LOOK, THE IDEA IS FOR THE KIDS TO HAVE FUN, NOT TO BE PROFESSIONALS. PARENTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT!
5/11
I'M NOT HER PARENT-- I'M HER SOCCER TUTOR.
LET'S GO, HONEY. THESE PEOPLE DON'T AIM TO EXCEL!
THPLOBAN

OK, TEAM--IT'S TIME TO PLAY OUR FIRST SOCCER GAME.
OF COURSE, IN JUNIOR SOCCER WE DON'T KEEP SCORE. THE POINT IS TO HAVE FUN.
BUT I STILL WANT YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL! TO PLAY HARD AND DO YOUR BEST!
SMACK!
5/2
NOW GET OUT THERE AND DON'T WIN ONE FOR THE GIPPER!
THE GIPPER? WHO'S THAT?

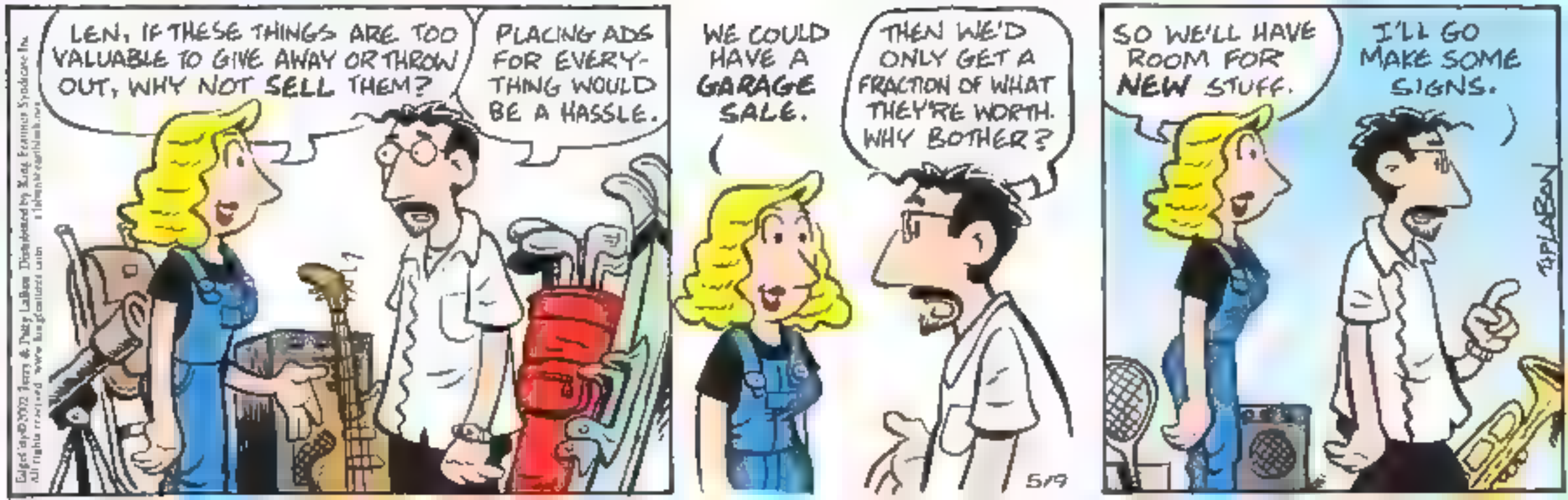

HOW DO YOU LIKE COACHING, LEN?
PRETTY WELL. I REALLY LIKE WORKING WITH THE KIDS.
HOW ABOUT THE PARENTS? SOME OF THEM CAN BE PRETTY PUSHY.
I DON'T MIND THE PARENTS WHO SHOW UP DURING PRACTICE.
5/3
WHAT BOTHERS ME ARE THE ONES WHO DON'T SHOW UP AFTERWARDS!
HIYA, JUSTIN! SOCCER BEEN OVER LONG?

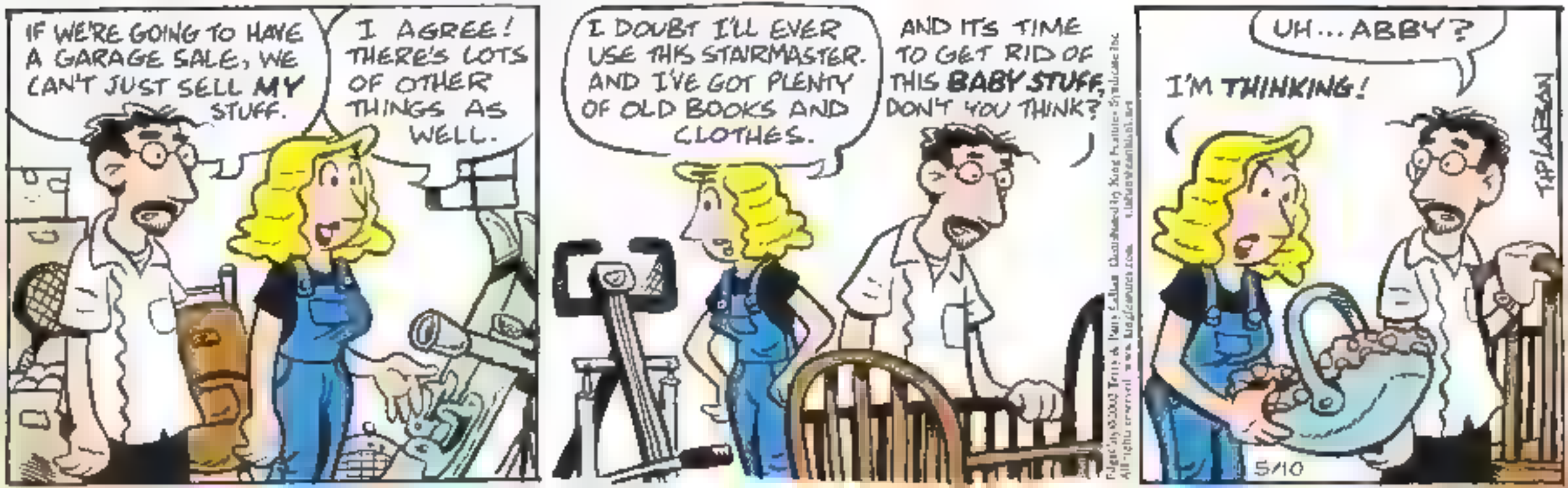
I SEE MY SON GOT A TROPHY!
IN JUNIOR SOCCER, EVERYONE GETS A TROPHY.
THAT'S NICE, I GUESS. BUT I'D HATE FOR THE KIDS TO THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH COMPETITION.
ME TOO.
6/4
BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
MY TROPHY IS TALLER THAN YOUR TROPHY.
SO? MINE IS SHINIER!


I NEED SOME SPACE FOR AN OFFICE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE USING THE SPARE BEDROOM.
SOMEHOW IT'S BECOME COMPLETELY FILLED WITH YOUR JUNK.
CAN'T YOU JUST MOVE IT OUT OF THE WAY?
I CAN SEE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN HERE LATELY!
ANYHOW, IT ISN'T JUNK.
516

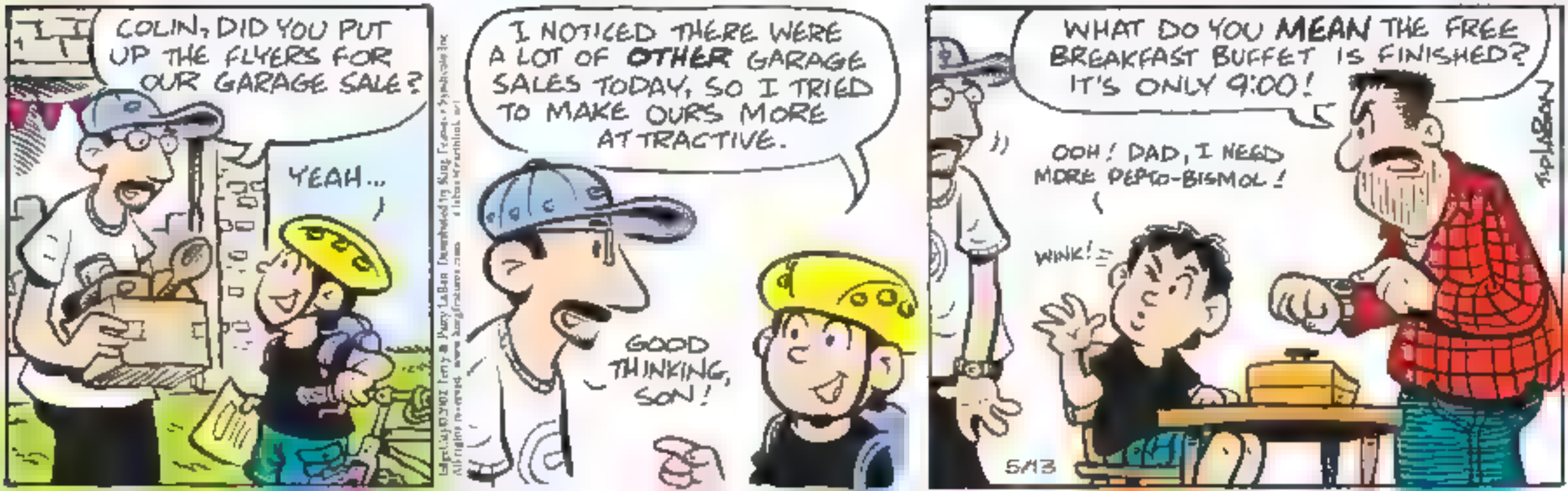

A LOT OF THIS CLUTTER IS FROM HOBBIES YOU TOOK UP FOR A WHILE AND LOST INTEREST IN.
YOU'VE GOT A BEER-BREWING SET, FLY-TYING EQUIPMENT, LYCRA SUITS FROM WHEN YOU RAN THE MARATHON...
I THINK THE PART YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT DOING ANYTHING IS BUYING ALL THE GEAR!
YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP PILING STUFF UP LIKE THIS.
Y'KNOW, THEY SELL ALL SORTS OF COOL ORGANIZING SYSTEMS!
5/7

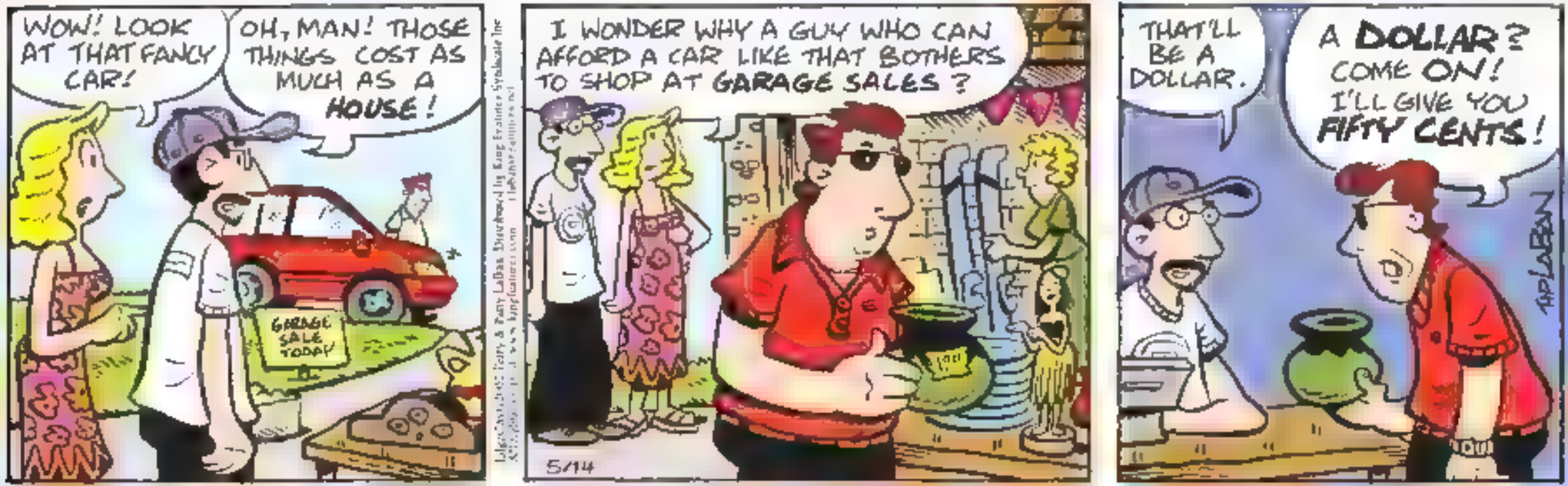
GRANTED, ABBY--I'VE GOT A LOT OF STUFF I DON'T USE VERY MUCH.
BUT WE CAN'T JUST GET RID OF IT ALL! A LOT OF THESE THINGS COST SERIOUS MONEY!
SO WHAT? IF YOU'RE NOT USING IT, IT JUST BECOMES CLUTTER!
IF YOU'RE PATIENT, IT'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME A VALUABLE ANTIQUE.
NEITHER OF US WILL LIVE TO SEE YOUR SNOW-BOARDING BOOTS APPRAISED ON PBS!
518
BORLAZAN

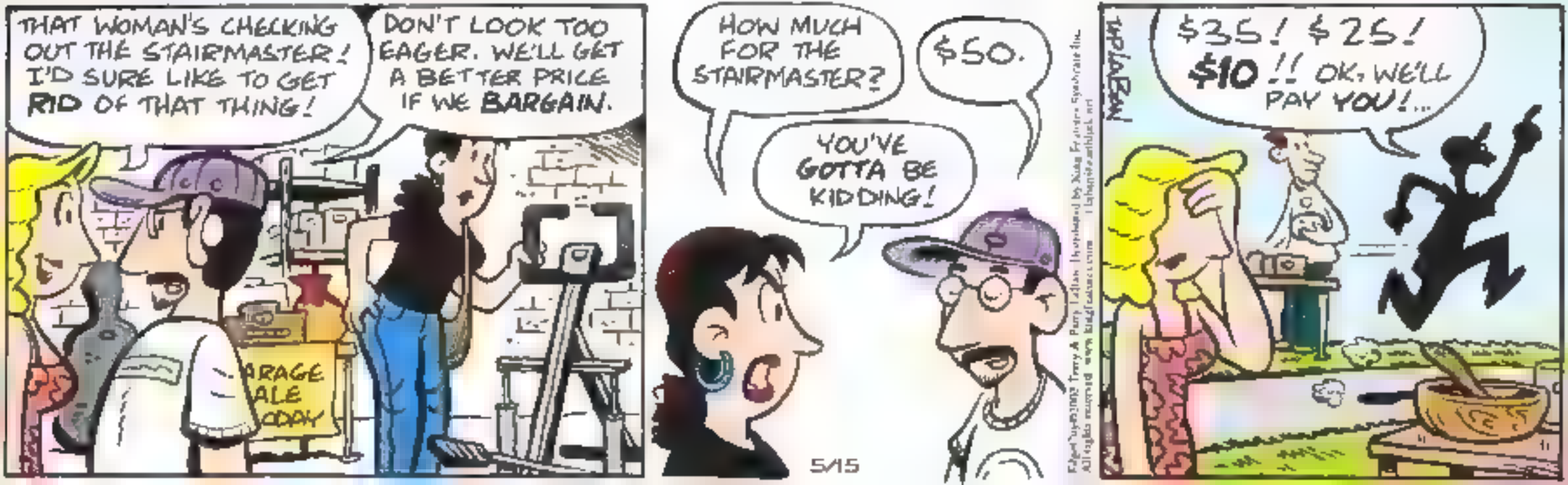

LEN, IF THESE THINGS ARE TOO VALUABLE TO GIVE AWAY OR THROW OUT, WHY NOT SELL THEM?
PLACING ADS FOR EVERYTHING WOULD BE A HASSLE.
WE COULD HAVE A GARAGE SALE.
THEN WE'D ONLY GET A FRACTION OF WHAT THEY'RE WORTH. WHY BOTHER?
5/9
SO WE'LL HAVE ROOM FOR NEW STUFF.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME SIGNS.
TRIPLABEAN

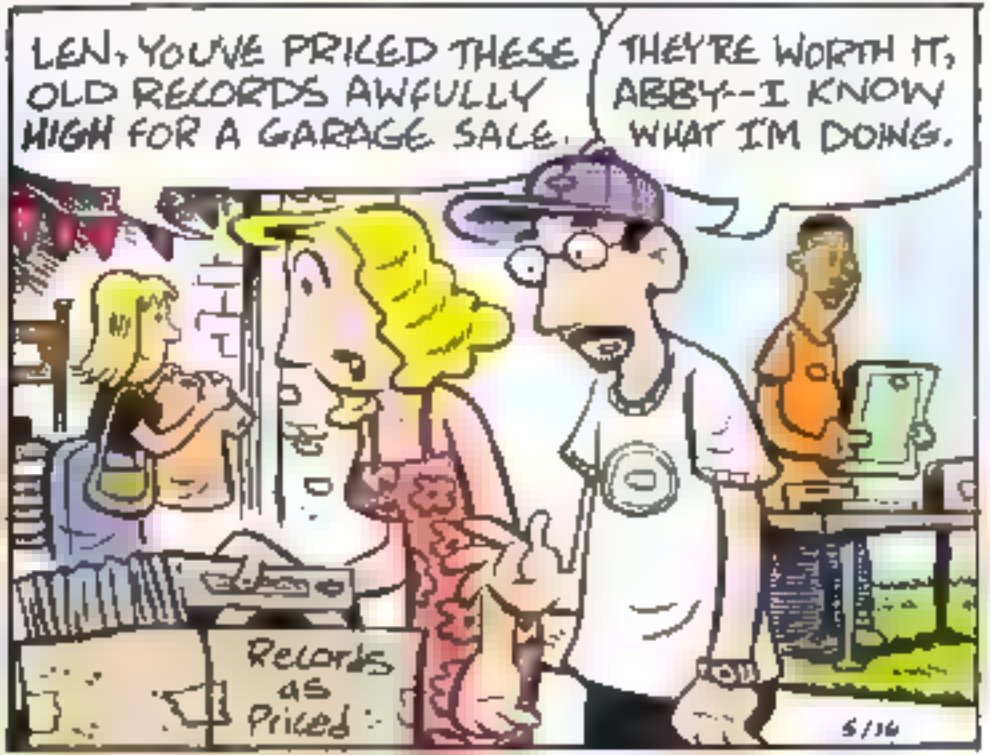

IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GARAGE SALE, WE CAN'T JUST SELL MY STUFF.
I AGREE! THERE'S LOTS OF OTHER THINGS AS WELL.
I DOUBT I'LL EVER USE THIS STAIRMASTER. AND I'VE GOT PLENTY OF OLD BOOKS AND CLOTHES.
AND ITS TIME TO GET RID OF THIS BABY STUFF, DON'T YOU THINK?
UH... ABBY?
I'M THINKING!
5/10
TRIBAN

WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THE OLD BABY STUFF? DO YOU WANT ANOTHER BABY?
NO--NOT REALLY.
IT'S JUST THAT THESE THINGS CONNECT ME TO A SPECIAL TIME IN MY LIFE. I'M NOT READY TO LET THEM GO.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. HOW 'BOUT THIS...
5/11
YOU CAN KEEP THE BABY STUFF IF I CAN KEEP THE ASHTRAYS I COLLECTED FROM THE HOTELS WHERE MY BAND STAYED!
YOU THINK WE COULD GET 50 BUCKS FOR THIS?
TAPPERN

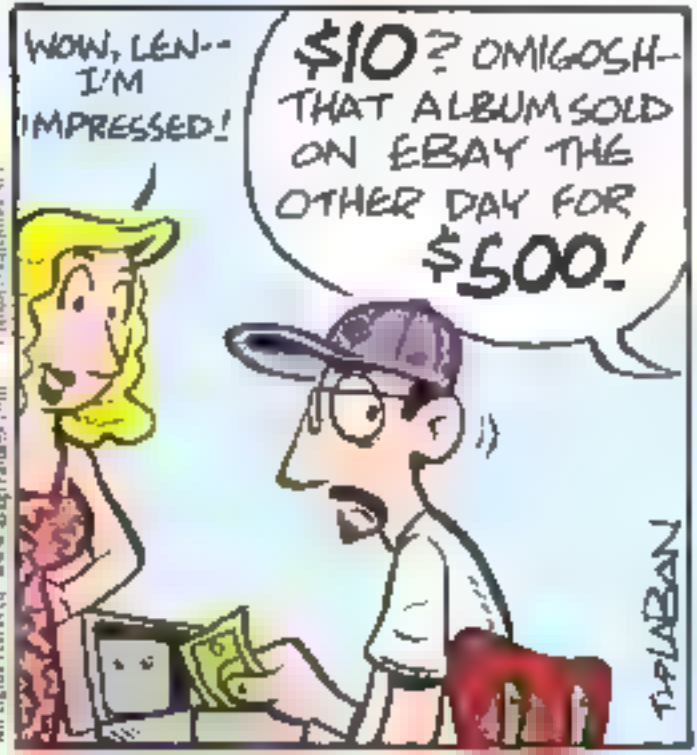

COLIN, DID YOU PUT UP THE FLYERS FOR OUR GARAGE SALE?
YEAH...
I NOTICED THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER GARAGE SALES TODAY, SO I TRIED TO MAKE OURS MORE ATTRACTIVE.
GOOD THINKING, SON!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET IS FINISHED? IT'S ONLY 9:00!
OOH! DAD, I NEED MORE PEPTO-BISMOL!
WINK!
5/13

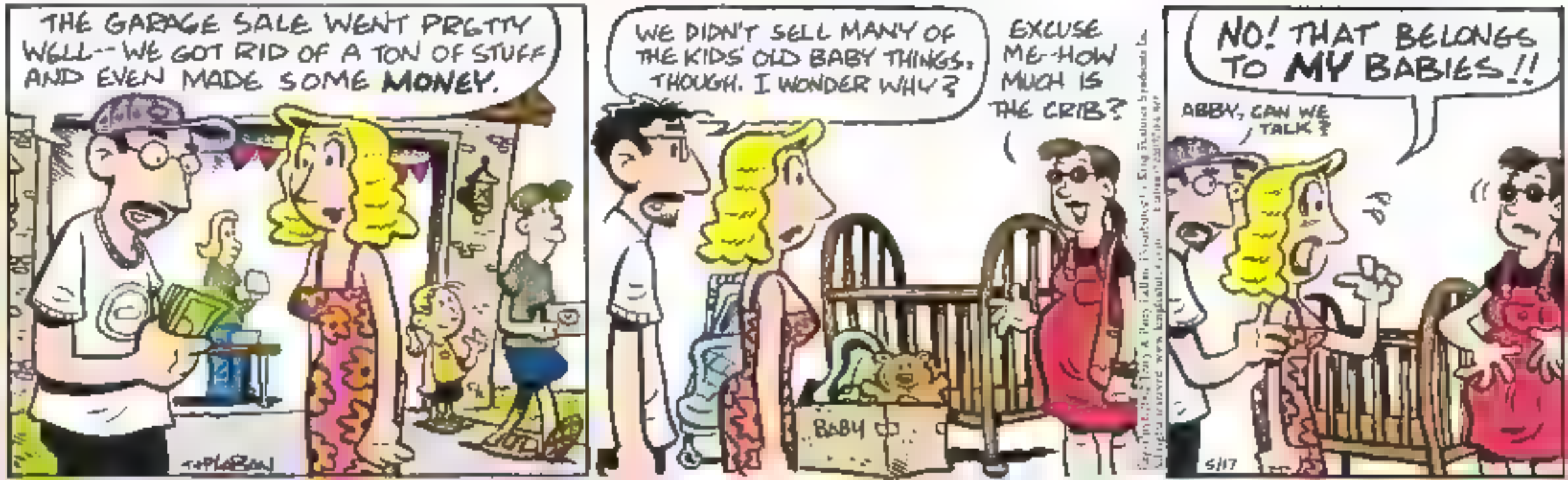

WOW! LOOK AT THAT FANCY CAR!
OH, MAN! THOSE THINGS COST AS MUCH AS A HOUSE!
GARAGE SALE TODAY
I WONDER WHY A GUY WHO CAN AFFORD A CAR LIKE THAT BOTHERS TO SHOP AT GARAGE SALES?
5/14
THAT'LL BE A DOLLAR.
A DOLLAR? COME ON! I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY CENTS!
TOM LABAN


THAT WOMAN'S CHECKING OUT THE STAIRMASTER! I'D SURE LIKE TO GET RID OF THAT THING!
DON'T LOOK TOO EAGER. WE'LL GET A BETTER PRICE IF WE BARGAIN.
ARAGE ALE ODAY
HOW MUCH FOR THE STAIRMASTER?
$50.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
5/15
$35! $25! $10!! OK, WE'LL PAY YOU!...

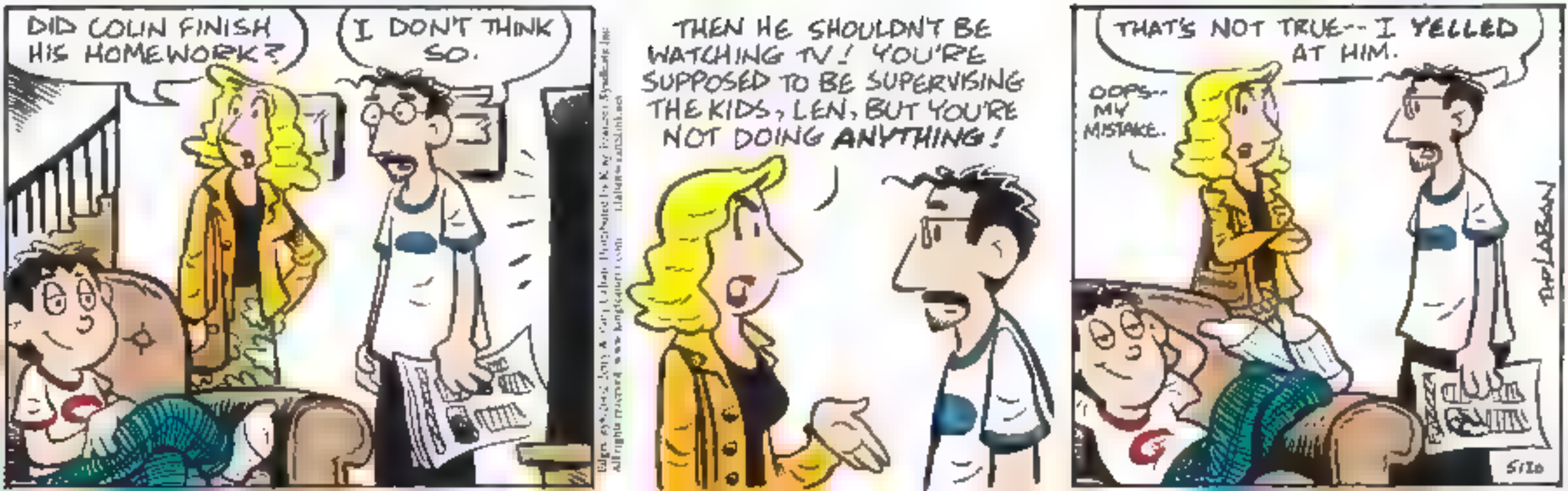

LEN, YOU'VE PRICED THESE OLD RECORDS AWFULLY HIGH FOR A GARAGE SALE.
THEY'RE WORTH IT, ABBY--I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
Records as Priced
5/16

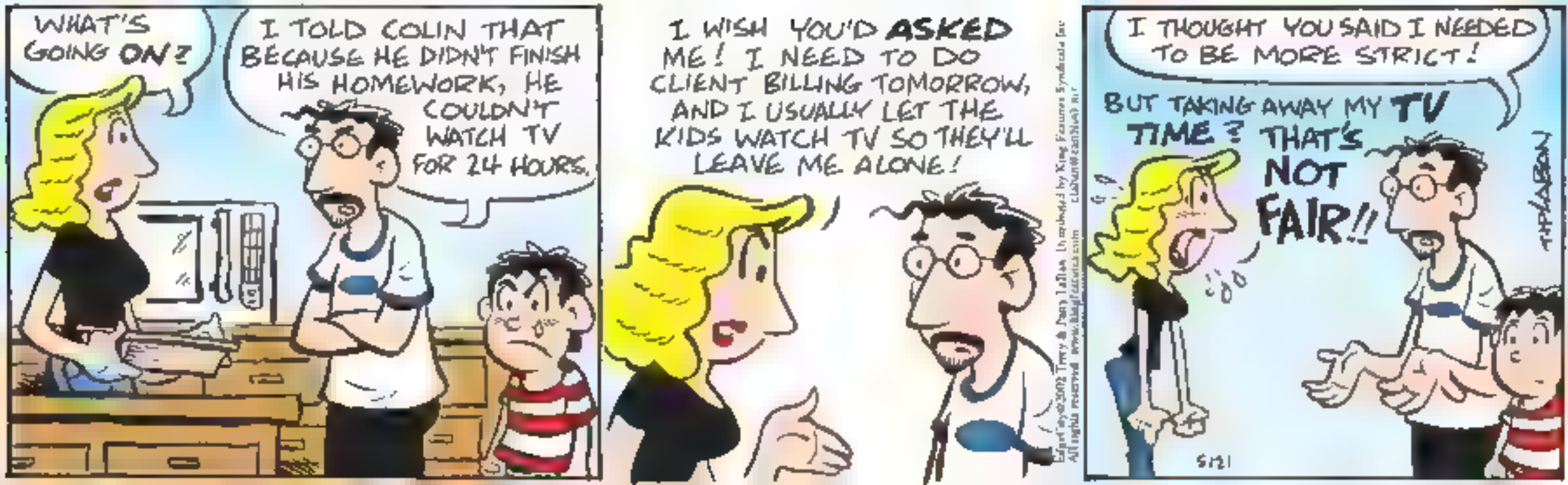
YOU WANT $10 FOR THIS? WELL... ALL RIGHT.
THE CRAS

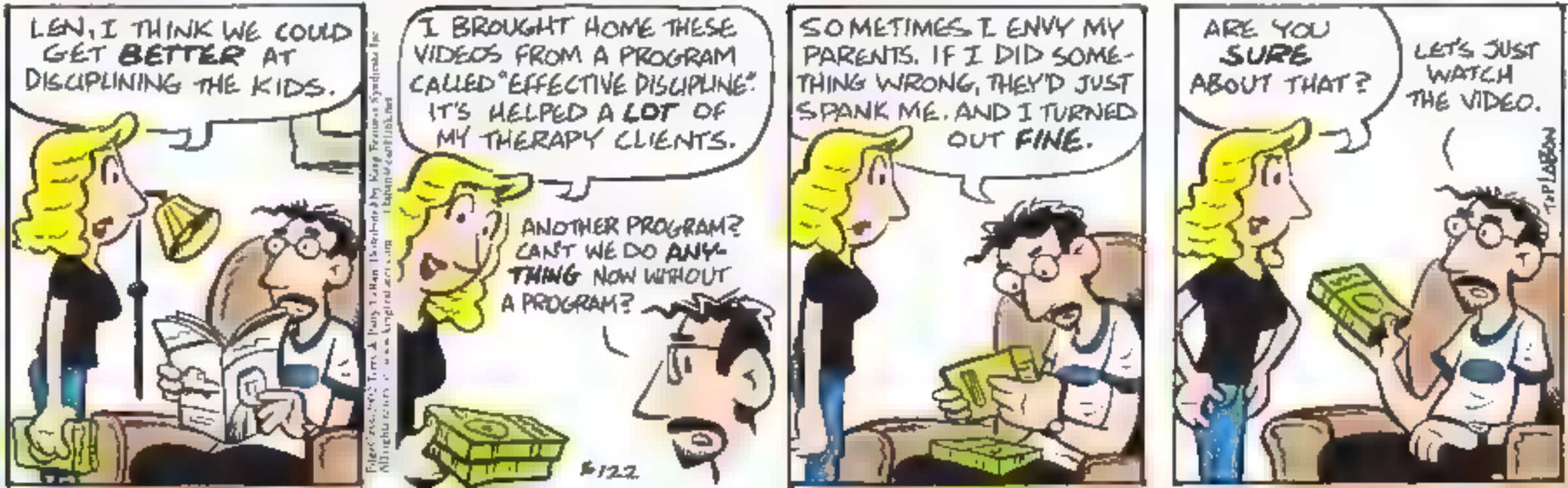

WOW, LEN-- I'M IMPRESSED!
$10? OMIGOSH- THAT ALBUM SOLD ON EBAY THE OTHER DAY FOR $500!
TOPLARAN

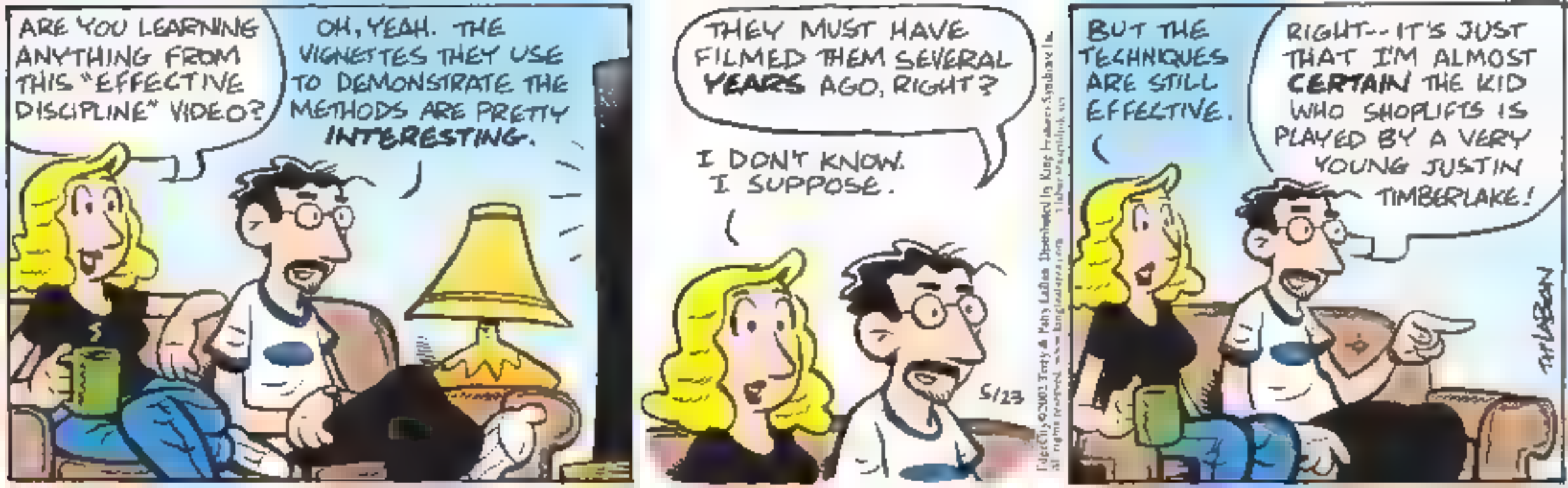

THE GARAGE SALE WENT PRETTY WELL-- WE GOT RID OF A TON OF STUFF AND EVEN MADE SOME MONEY.
WE DIDN'T SELL MANY OF THE KIDS' OLD BABY THINGS, THOUGH. I WONDER WHY?
EXCUSE ME--HOW MUCH IS THE CRIB?
BABY
NO! THAT BELONGS TO MY BABIES!!
ABBY, CAN WE TALK?

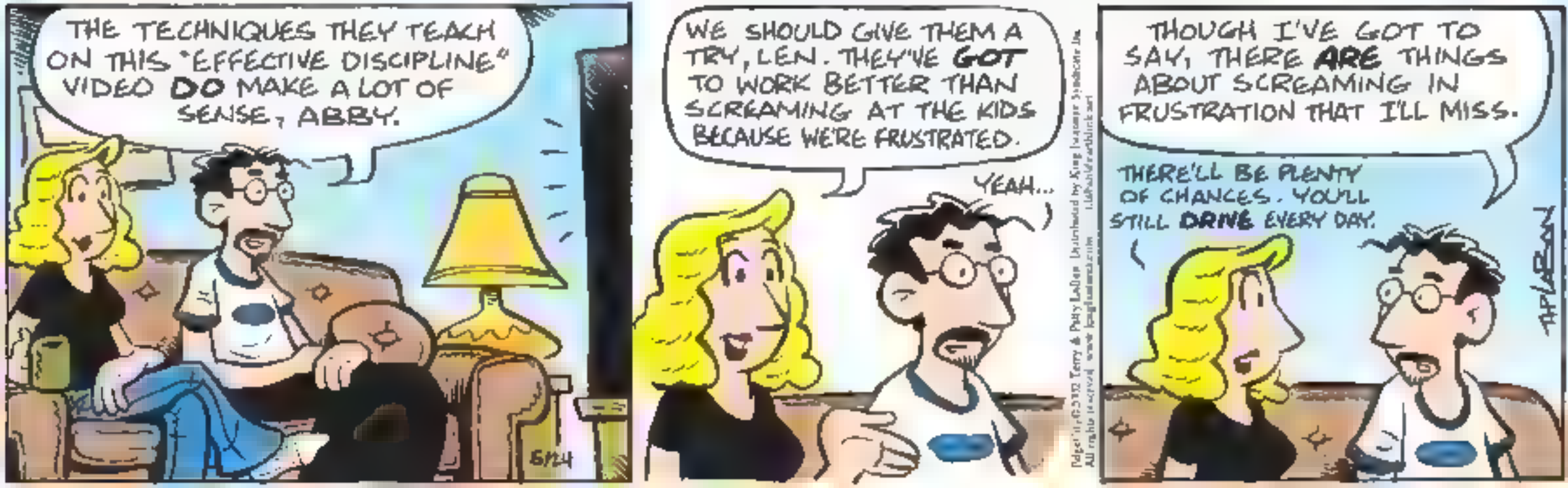
WHAT'S GOING ON, ABBY? WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO SELL THE BABY STUFF?
I DON'T KNOW, LEN.
GARAGE SALE TODAY
I GUESS I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT SOMEDAY I MIGHT WANT ANOTHER BABY. IT WAS KIND OF A SURPRISE.
6/16
LEN, CALM DOWN! I'M NOT SAYING I WANT ONE FOR SURE!
YEAH... I UNDERSTAND...
FOR A MINUTE THERE, ALL I HEARD WAS "ANOTHER BABY" AND "SURPRISE"!

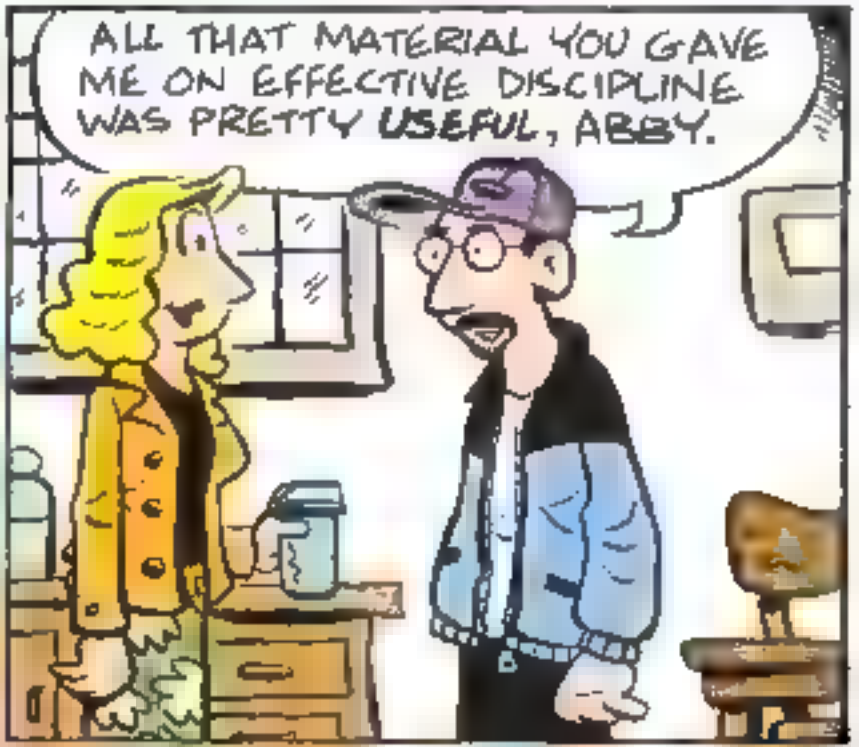

DID COLIN FINISH HIS HOMEWORK?
I DON'T THINK SO.
THEN HE SHOULDN'T BE WATCHING TV! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SUPERVISING THE KIDS, LEN, BUT YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING!
THAT'S NOT TRUE-- I YELLED AT HIM.
OOPS-- MY MISTAKE.
THE LABAN
5/10

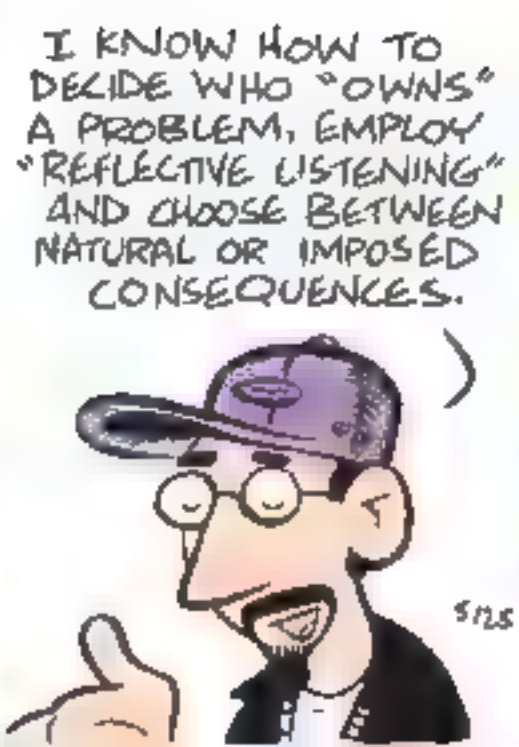

WHAT'S GOING ON?
I TOLD COLIN THAT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T FINISH HIS HOMEWORK, HE COULDN'T WATCH TV FOR 24 HOURS.
I WISH YOU'D ASKED ME! I NEED TO DO CLIENT BILLING TOMORROW, AND I USUALLY LET THE KIDS WATCH TV SO THEY'LL LEAVE ME ALONE!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID I NEEDED TO BE MORE STRICT!
BUT TAKING AWAY MY TV TIME? THAT'S NOT FAIR!!
5/21


LEN, I THINK WE COULD GET BETTER AT DISCIPLINING THE KIDS.
I BROUGHT HOME THESE VIDEOS FROM A PROGRAM CALLED "EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE". IT'S HELPED A LOT OF MY THERAPY CLIENTS.
ANOTHER PROGRAM? CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING NOW WITHOUT A PROGRAM?
#122
SOMETIMES I ENVY MY PARENTS. IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG, THEY'D JUST SPANK ME. AND I TURNED OUT FINE.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
LET'S JUST WATCH THE VIDEO.


ARE YOU LEARNING ANYTHING FROM THIS "EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE" VIDEO?
OH, YEAH. THE VIGNETTES THEY USE TO DEMONSTRATE THE METHODS ARE PRETTY INTERESTING.
THEY MUST HAVE FILMED THEM SEVERAL YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW. I SUPPOSE.
5/23
BUT THE TECHNIQUES ARE STILL EFFECTIVE.
RIGHT-- IT'S JUST THAT I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THE KID WHO SHOPLIFTS IS PLAYED BY A VERY YOUNG JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE!


THE TECHNIQUES THEY TEACH ON THIS "EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE" VIDEO DO MAKE A LOT OF SENSE, ABBY.
5/24
WE SHOULD GIVE THEM A TRY, LEN. THEY'VE GOT TO WORK BETTER THAN SCREAMING AT THE KIDS BECAUSE WE'RE FRUSTRATED.
YEAH...
THOUGH I'VE GOT TO SAY, THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT SCREAMING IN FRUSTRATION THAT I'LL MISS.
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF CHANCES. YOU'LL STILL DRIVE EVERY DAY.





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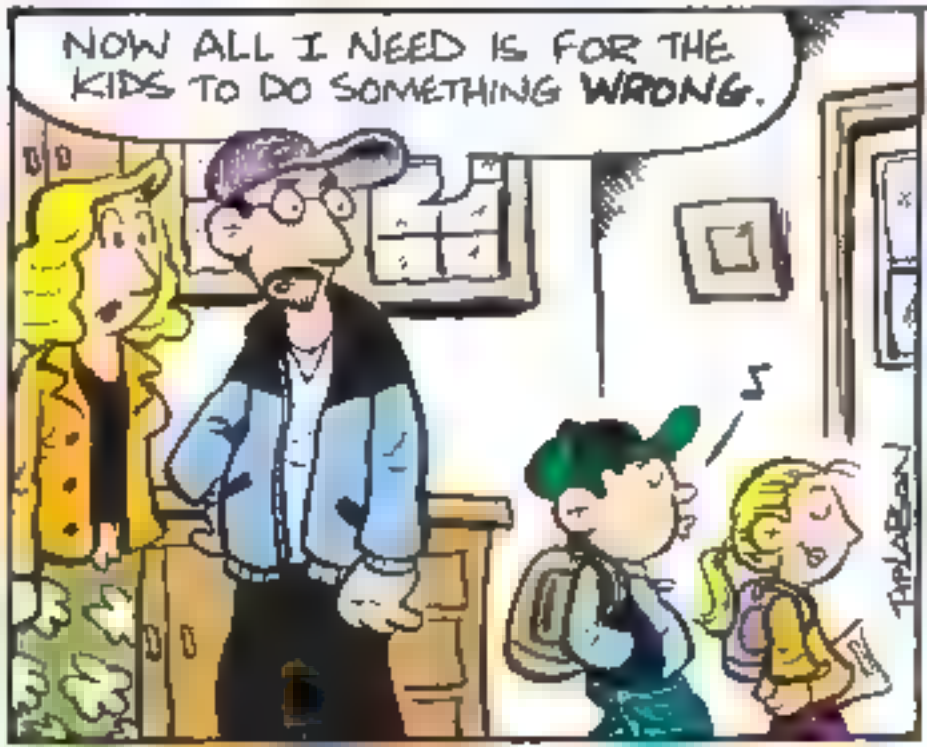
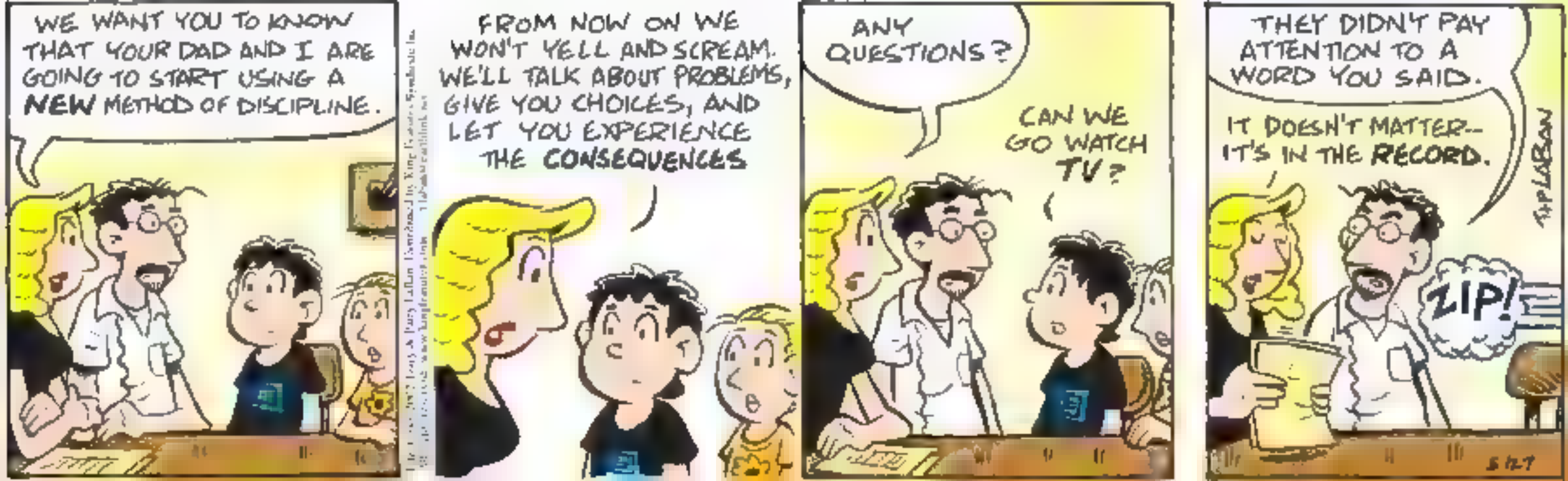
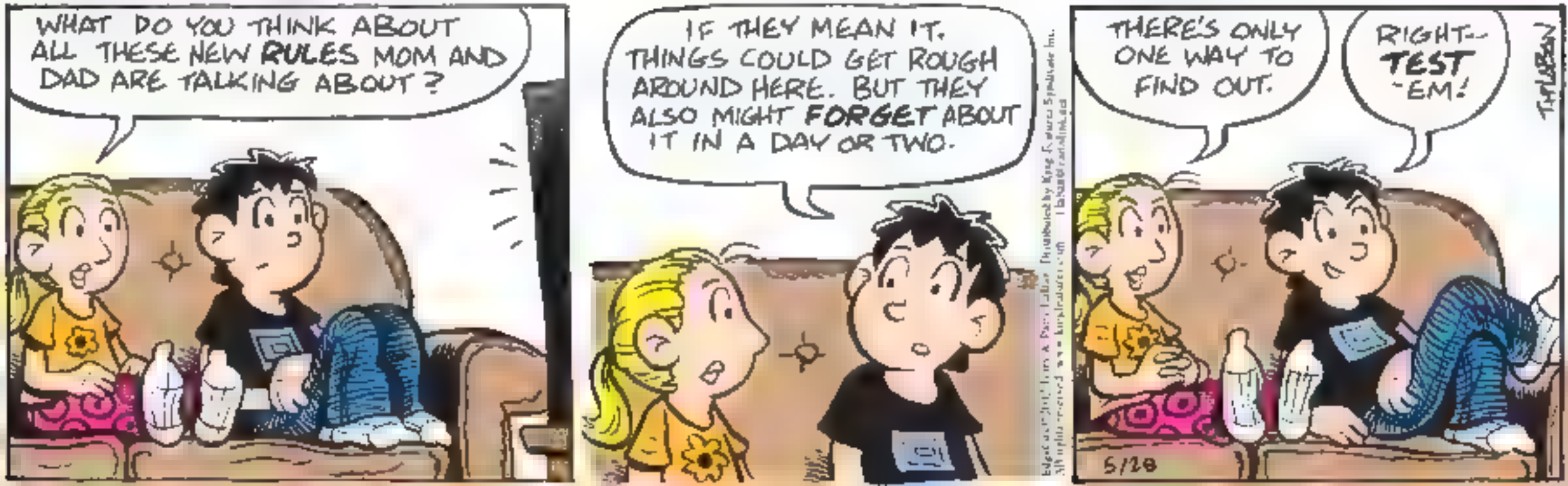
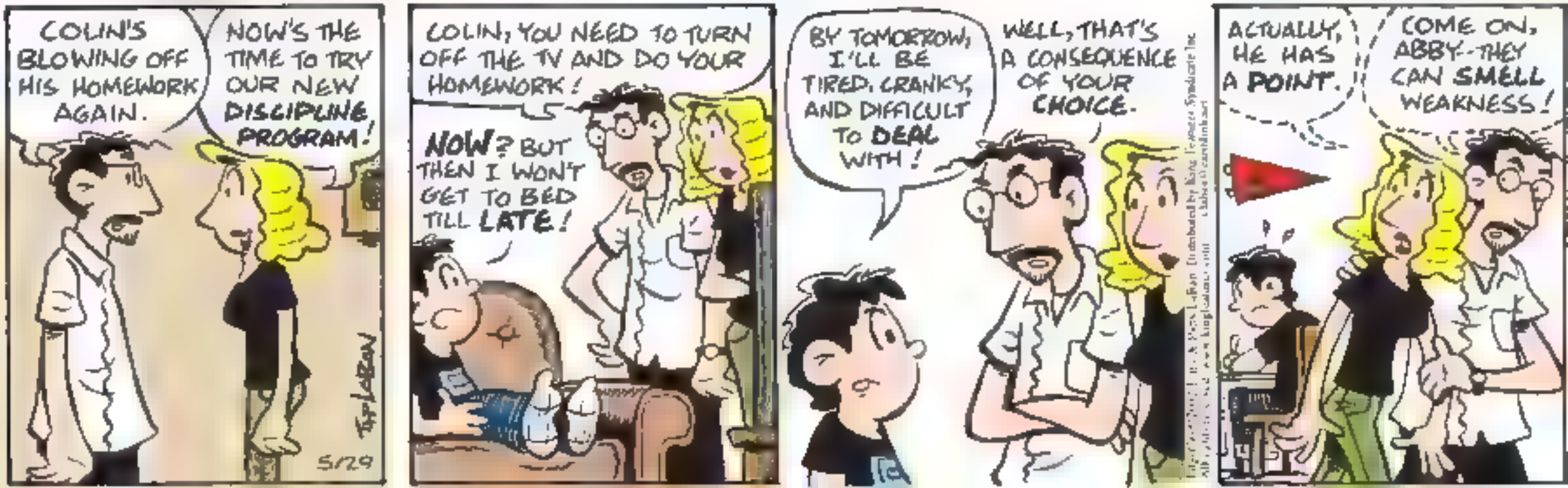
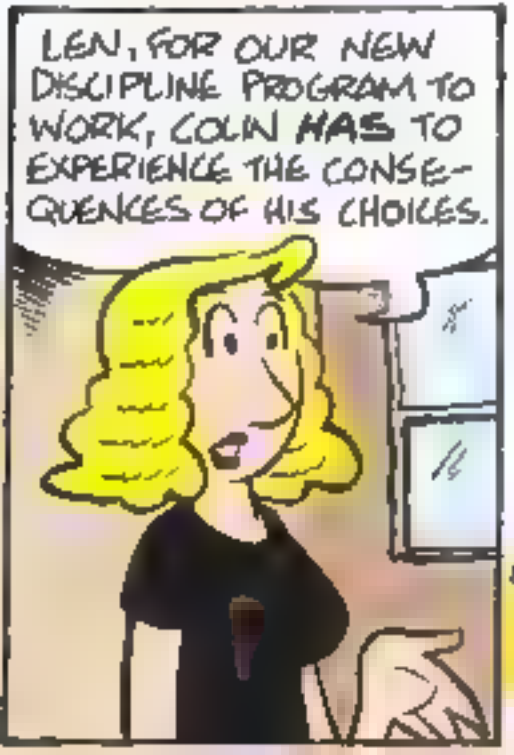
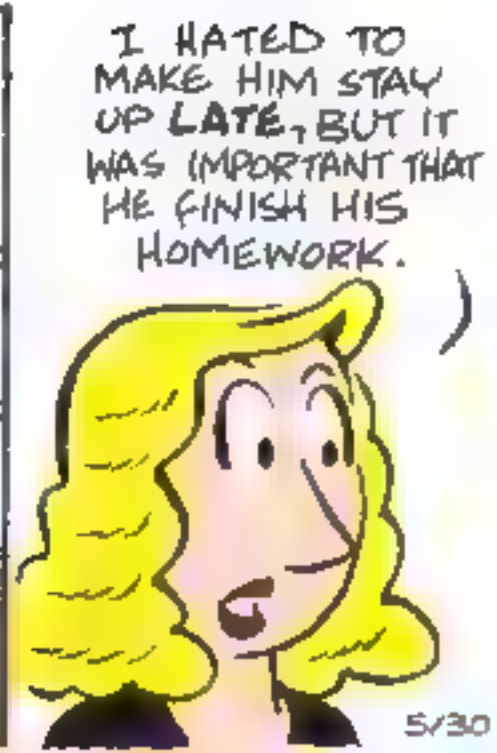



WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR DAD AND I ARE GOING TO START USING A NEW METHOD OF DISCIPLINE.
FROM NOW ON WE WON'T YELL AND SCREAM. WE'LL TALK ABOUT PROBLEMS, GIVE YOU CHOICES, AND LET YOU EXPERIENCE THE CONSEQUENCES
ANY QUESTIONS?
CAN WE GO WATCH TV?
THEY DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO A WORD YOU SAID.
IT DOESN'T MATTER-- IT'S IN THE RECORD.
ZIP!

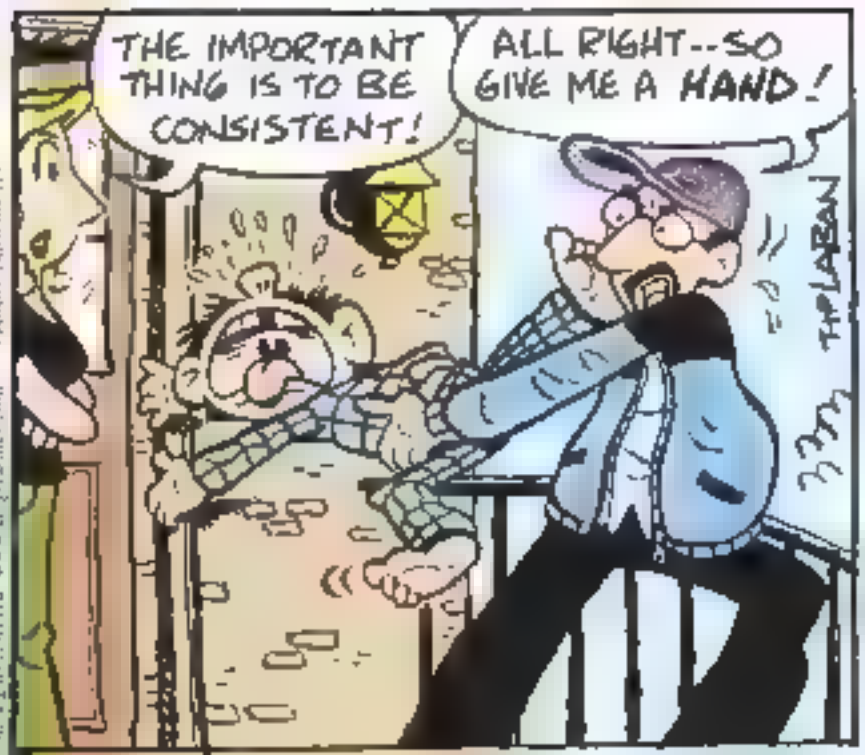

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THESE NEW RULES MOM AND DAD ARE TALKING ABOUT?
IF THEY MEAN IT, THINGS COULD GET ROUGH AROUND HERE. BUT THEY ALSO MIGHT FORGET ABOUT IT IN A DAY OR TWO.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
RIGHT-- TEST 'EM!
5/28

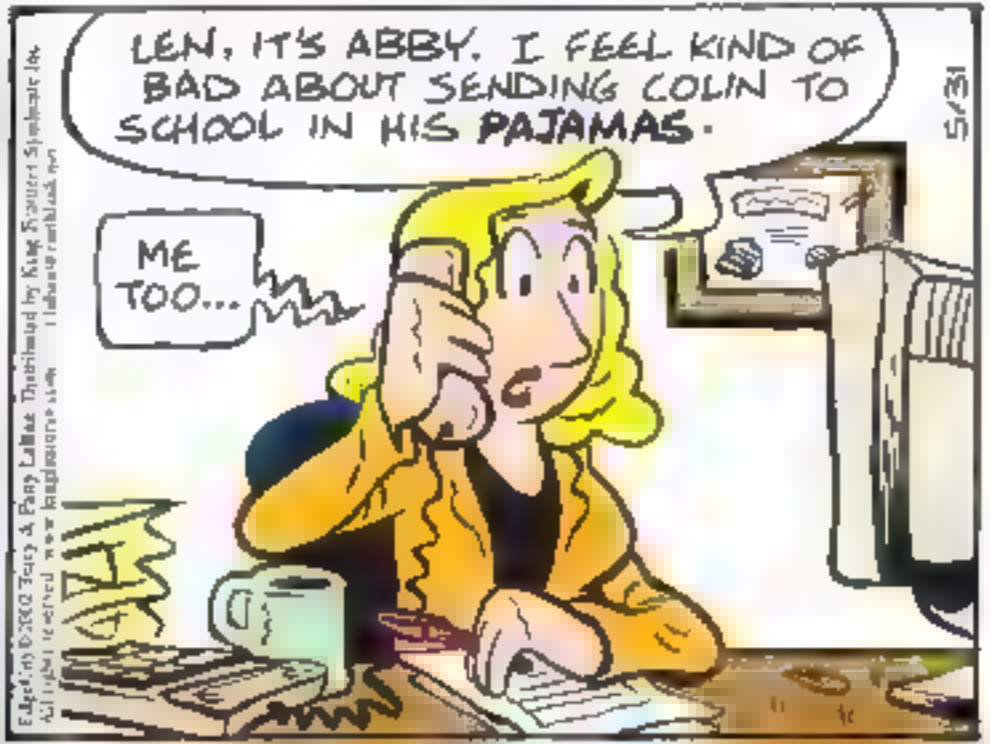

COLIN'S BLOWING OFF HIS HOMEWORK AGAIN.
NOW'S THE TIME TO TRY OUR NEW DISCIPLINE PROGRAM!
TOPLIFFEN
5/29
COLIN, YOU NEED TO TURN OFF THE TV AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK!
NOW? BUT THEN I WON'T GET TO BED TILL LATE!
BY TOMORROW, I'LL BE TIRED, CRANKY, AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH!
WELL, THAT'S A CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR CHOICE.
ACTUALLY, HE HAS A POINT.
COME ON, ABBY--THEY CAN SMELL WEAKNESS!

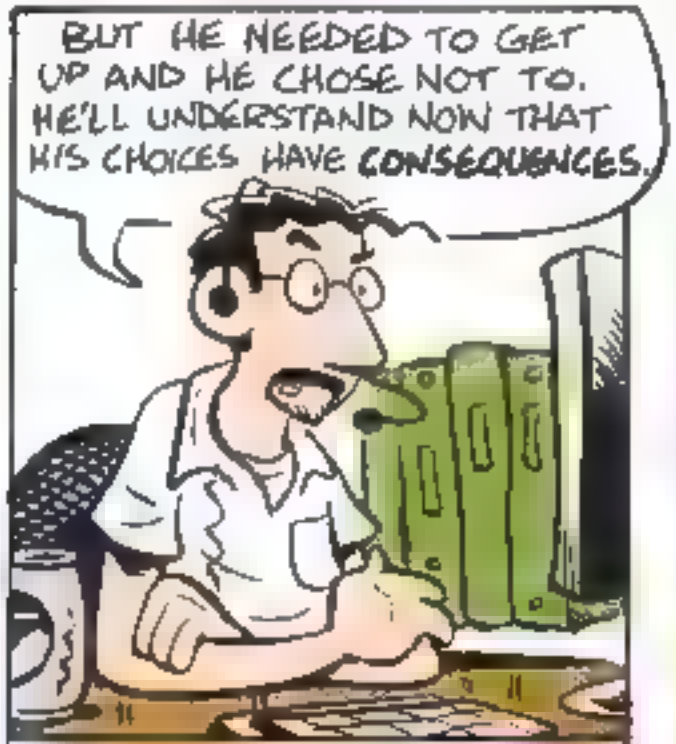

LEN, FOR OUR NEW DISCIPLINE PROGRAM TO WORK, COLIN HAS TO EXPERIENCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS CHOICES.


I HATED TO MAKE HIM STAY UP LATE, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE FINISH HIS HOMEWORK.
5/30

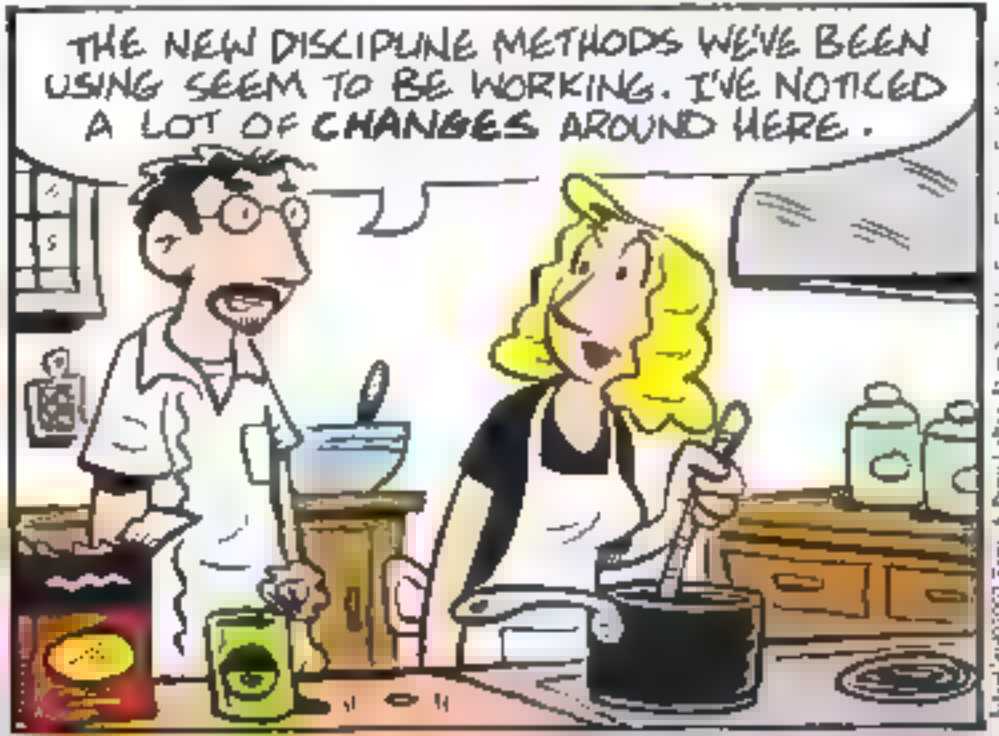
EVEN IF HE'S TIRED THIS MORNING, HE STILL NEEDS TO GET TO SCHOOL ON TIME!


THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE CONSISTENT!
ALL RIGHT--SO GIVE ME A HAND!
THE LABAN

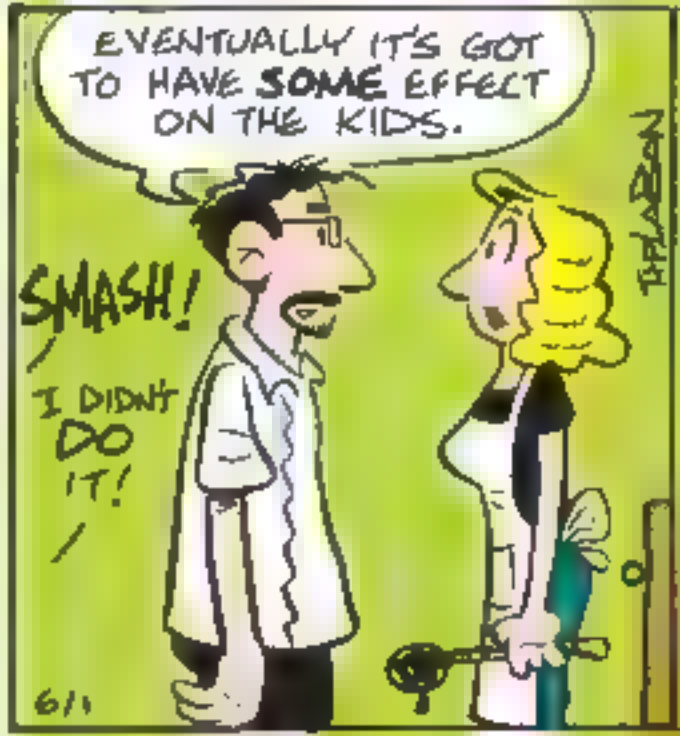

LEN, IT'S ABBY. I FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT SENDING COLIN TO SCHOOL IN HIS PAJAMAS.
ME TOO...
5/31

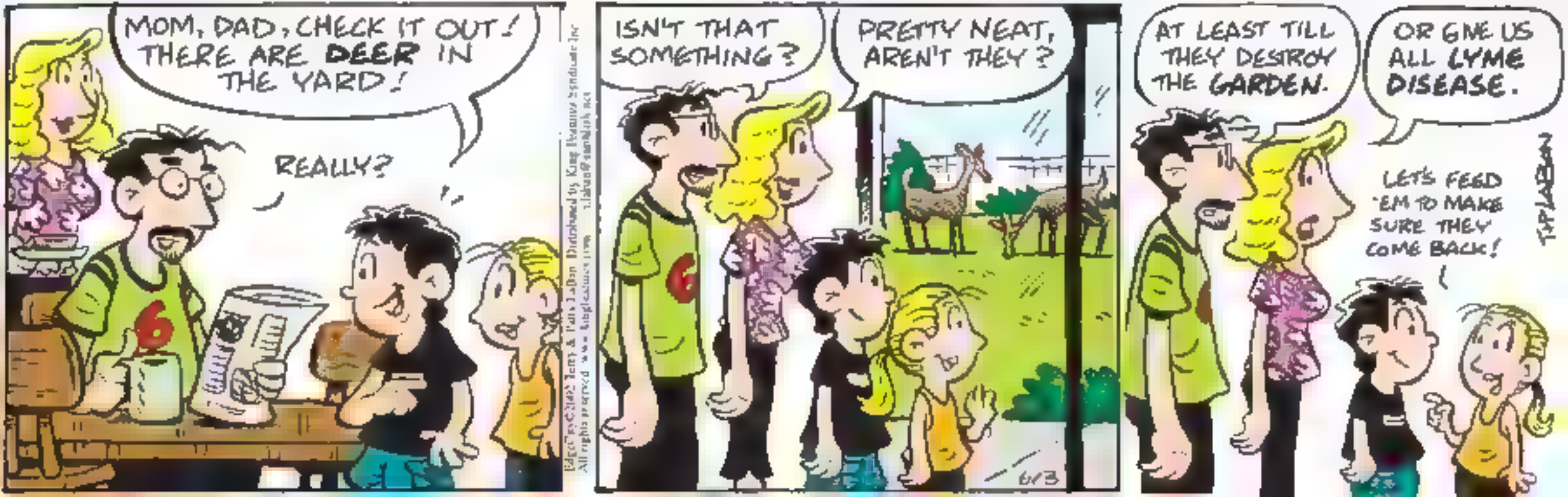

BUT HE NEEDED TO GET UP AND HE CHOSE NOT TO. HE'LL UNDERSTAND NOW THAT HIS CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

WE SHOULD BE PROUD WE DIDN'T GIVE IN!
YEAH... IT'S JUST THAT I REMEMBERED TODAY'S THE DAY THEY TAKE SCHOOL PICTURES.

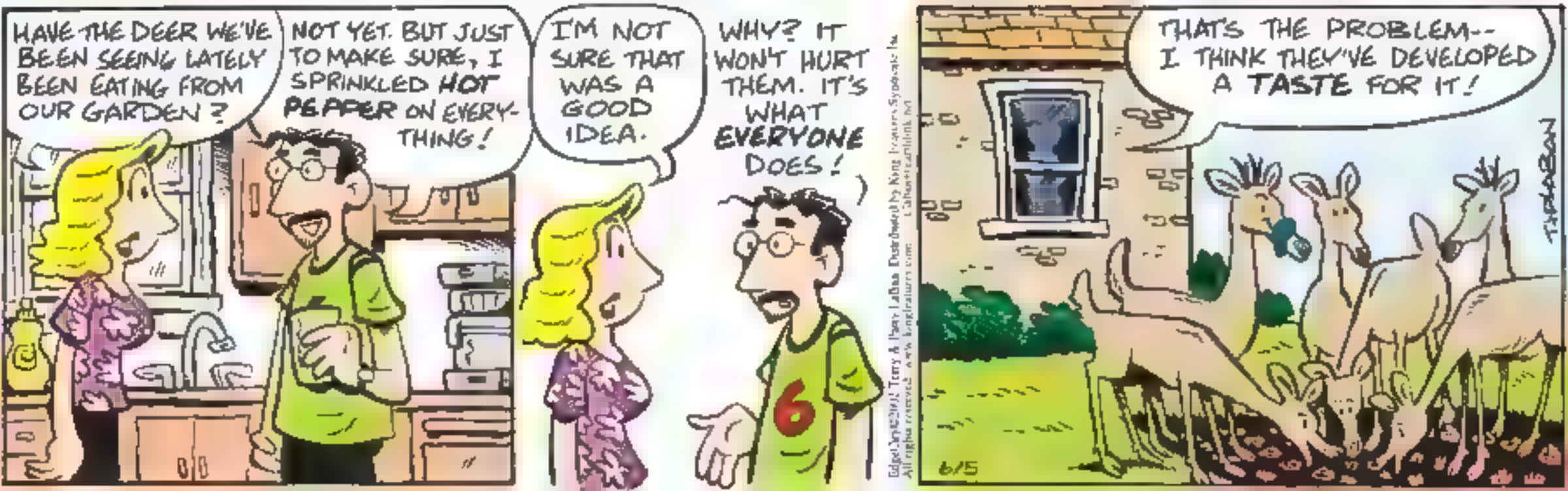

THE NEW DISCIPLINE METHODS WE'VE BEEN USING SEEM TO BE WORKING. I'VE NOTICED A LOT OF CHANGES AROUND HERE.

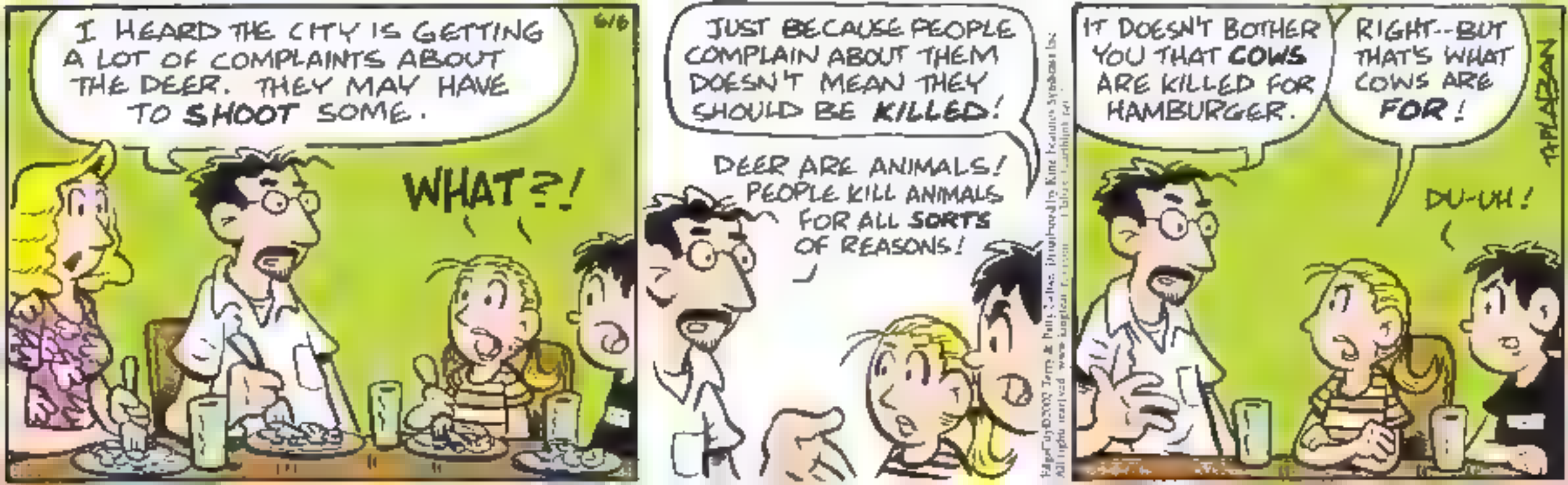
WE'RE YELLING LESS AND TALKING MORE. WE DO THINGS WITH DELIBERATION INSTEAD OF JUST LASHING OUT.

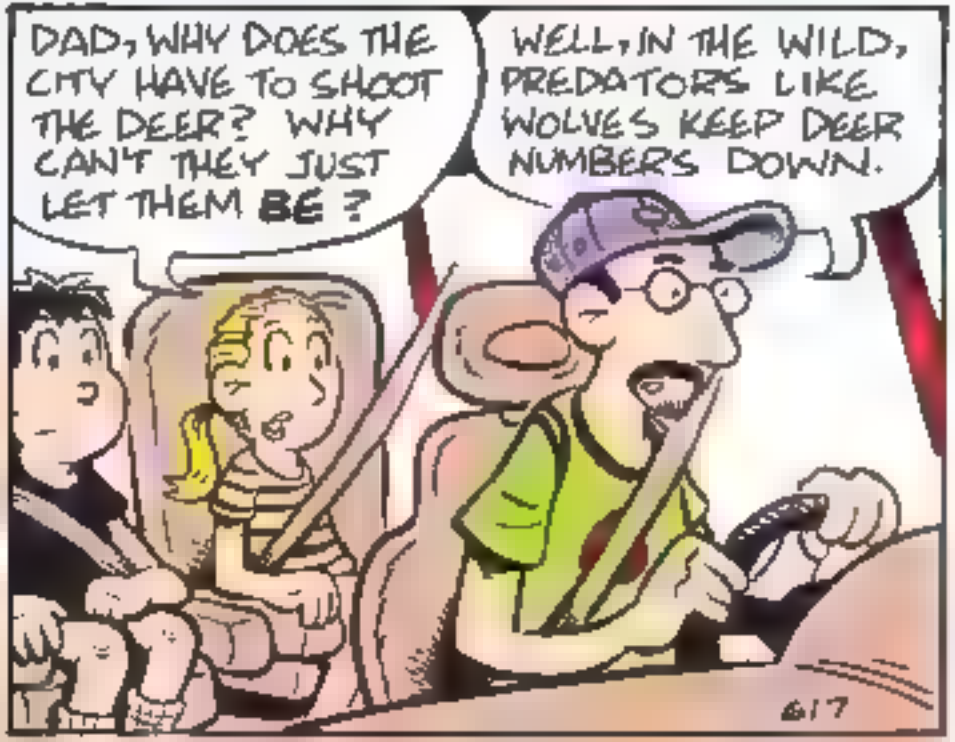

EVENTUALLY IT'S GOT TO HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE KIDS.
SMASH!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
6/1

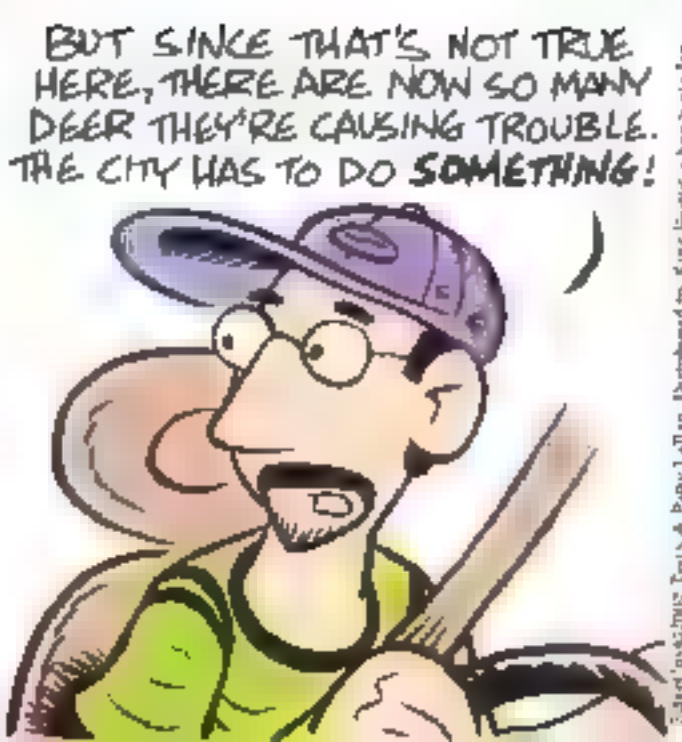

MOM, DAD, CHECK IT OUT! THERE ARE DEER IN THE YARD!
REALLY?
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING?
PRETTY NEAT, AREN'T THEY?
AT LEAST TILL THEY DESTROY THE GARDEN.
OR GIVE US ALL LYME DISEASE.
LET'S FEED 'EM TO MAKE SURE THEY COME BACK!

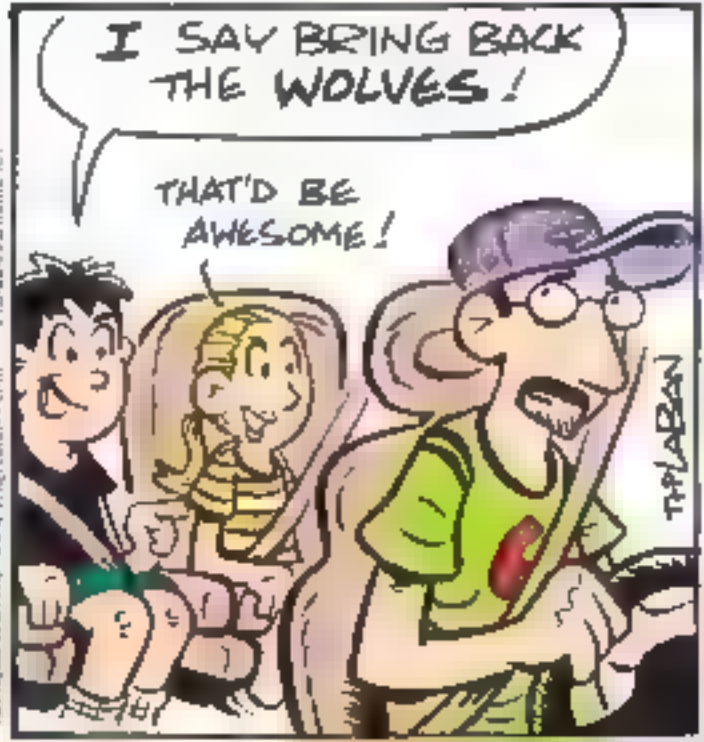
SINCE WE'VE BEEN SEEING DEER IN THE YARD, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE KIDS CATCHING LYME DISEASE.
IT'LL BE OK, ABBY...
THEY SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS WE TAKE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS.
MOM, WE PROMISE! WE WON'T GO OFF THE PATIO!
JUST HOLD YOUR BREATH, ALL RIGHT?
COUGH!

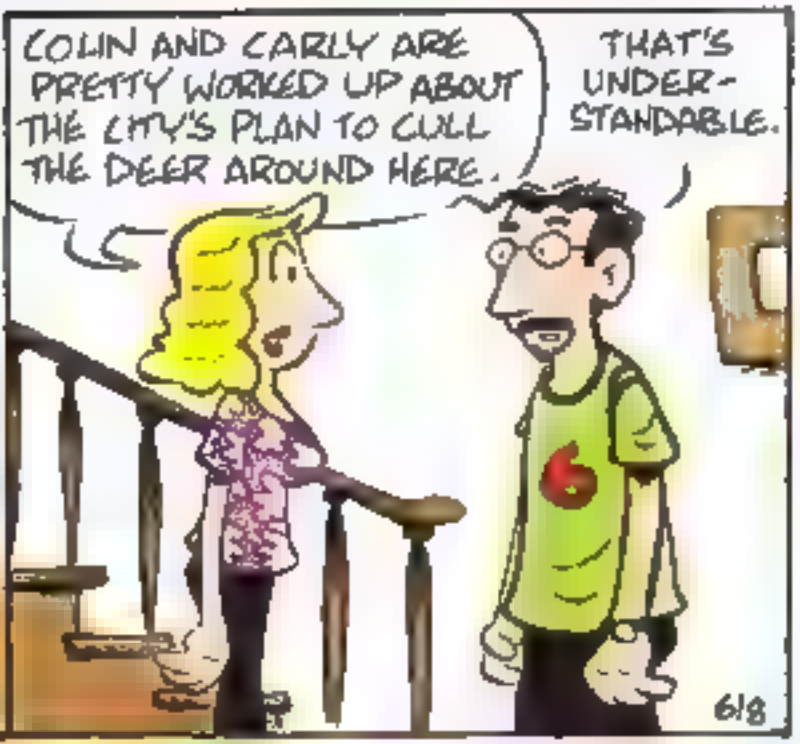

HAVE THE DEER WE'VE BEEN SEEING LATELY BEEN EATING FROM OUR GARDEN?
NOT YET. BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE, I SPRINKLED HOT PEPPER ON EVERYTHING!
I'M NOT SURE THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA.
WHY? IT WON'T HURT THEM. IT'S WHAT EVERYONE DOES!
6
THAT'S THE PROBLEM-- I THINK THEY'VE DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR IT!
6/5


I HEARD THE CITY IS GETTING A LOT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DEER. THEY MAY HAVE TO SHOOT SOME.
6/6
WHAT?!
JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT THEM DOESN'T MEAN THEY SHOULD BE KILLED!
DEER ARE ANIMALS! PEOPLE KILL ANIMALS FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS!
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU THAT COWS ARE KILLED FOR HAMBURGER.
RIGHT--BUT THAT'S WHAT COWS ARE FOR!
DU-UH!
TAPLARZAN

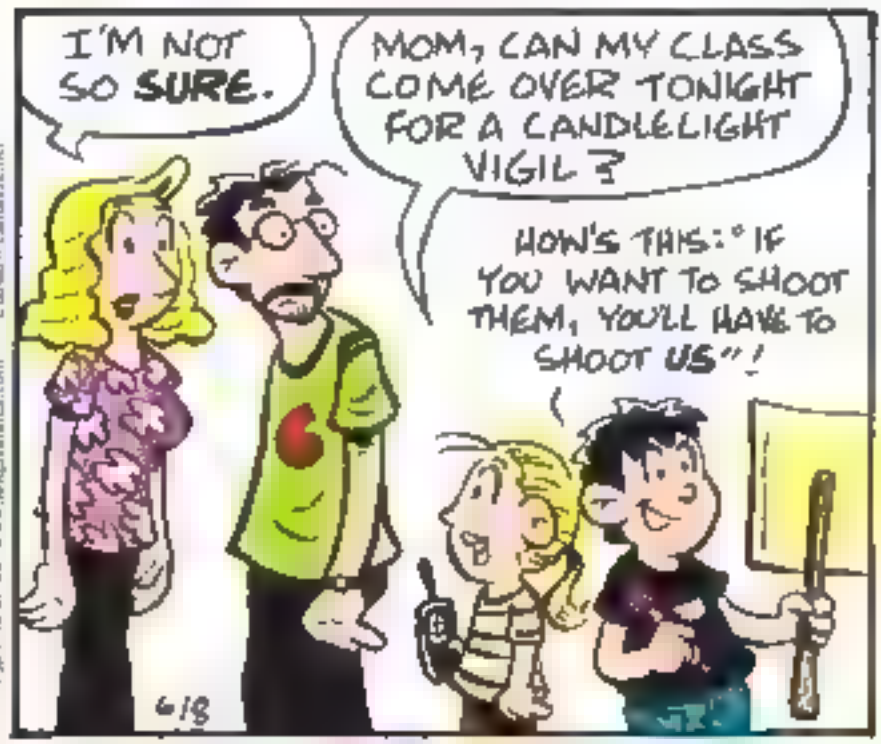

DAD, WHY DOES THE CITY HAVE TO SHOOT THE DEER? WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LET THEM BE?
WELL, IN THE WILD, PREDATORS LIKE WOLVES KEEP DEER NUMBERS DOWN.
617

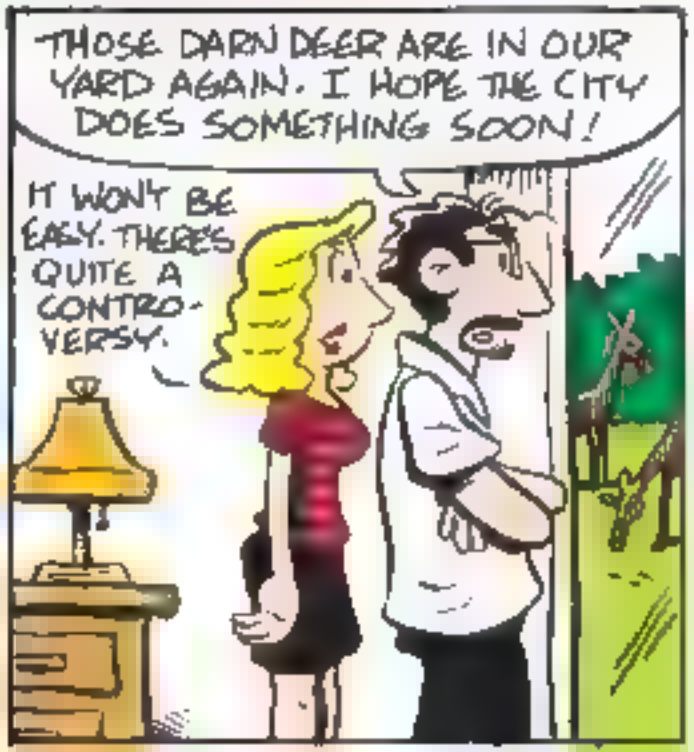

BUT SINCE THAT'S NOT TRUE HERE, THERE ARE NOW SO MANY DEER THEY'RE CAUSING TROUBLE. THE CITY HAS TO DO SOMETHING!


I SAY BRING BACK THE WOLVES!
THAT'D BE AWESOME!
THALABAN


COLIN AND CARLY ARE PRETTY WORKED UP ABOUT THE CITY'S PLAN TO CULL THE DEER AROUND HERE.
THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE.
6/8

IT'S UPSETTING TO REALIZE THERE ARE UNPLEASANT THINGS IN THIS WORLD WE CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT. THEY'LL GET OVER IT.
TYPLABAN

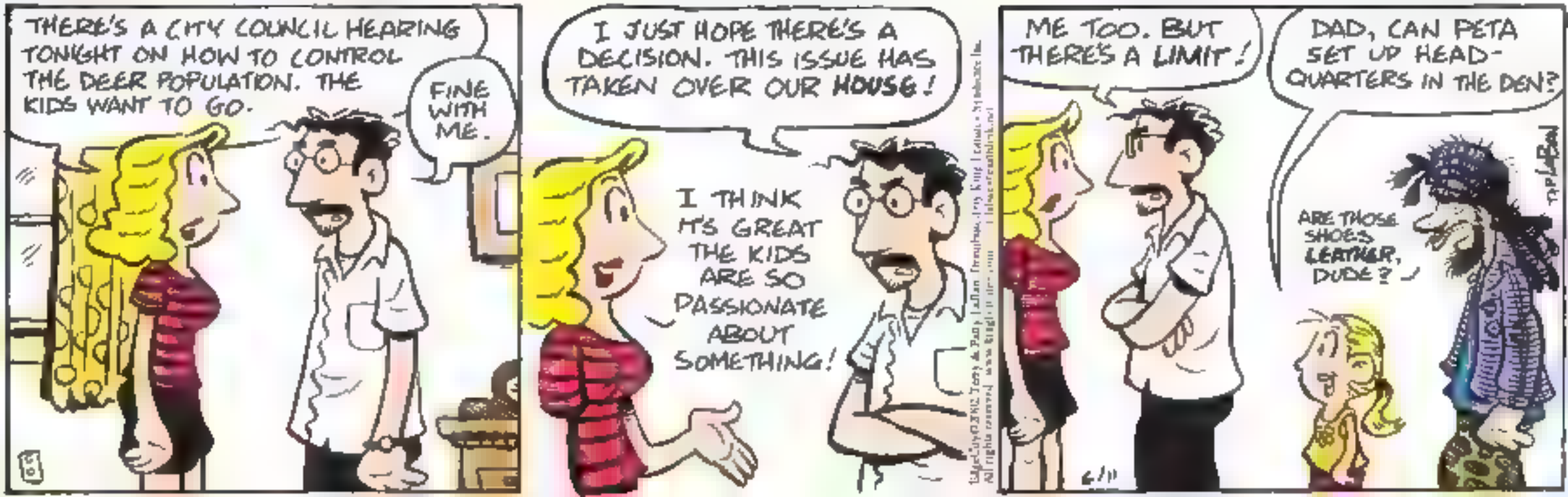

I'M NOT SO SURE.
MOM, CAN MY CLASS COME OVER TONIGHT FOR A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL?
HOW'S THIS: "IF YOU WANT TO SHOOT THEM, YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOOT US"!
6/8


THOSE DARN DEER ARE IN OUR YARD AGAIN. I HOPE THE CITY DOES SOMETHING SOON!
IT WON'T BE EASY. THERE'S QUITE A CONTROVERSY.

I DON'T SEE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH SHOOTING SOME. YOU CAN'T JUST LET THEM RUN AMOK!

A LOT OF FOLKS FEEL STRONGLY THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE.
I THINK REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN FIND A COMPROMISE.
6/10

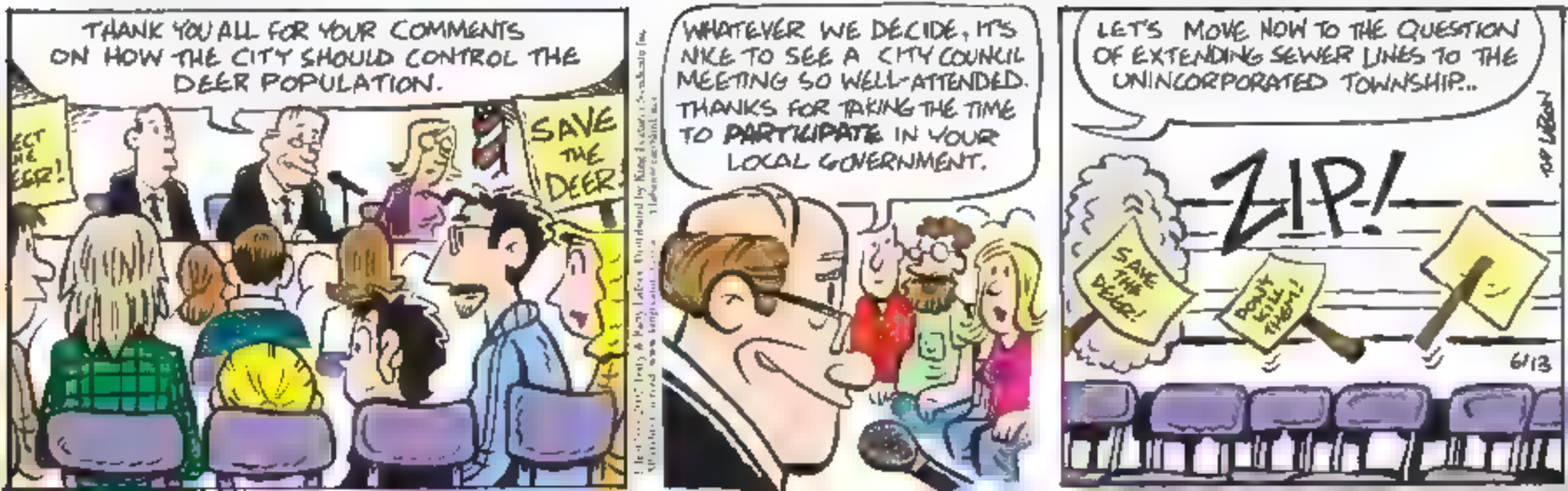
THE PROBLEM IS THE UNREASONABLE ONES.
GUESS WHAT? WE VOLUNTEERED TO ACT AS HUMAN SHIELDS!

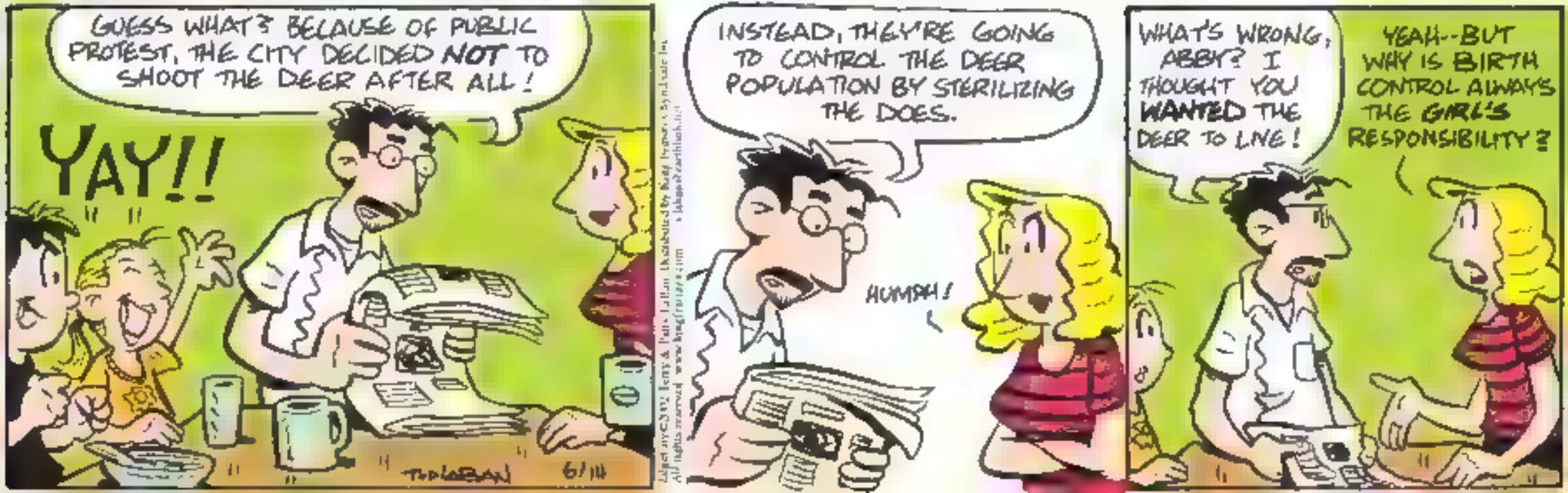

THERE'S A CITY COUNCIL HEARING TONIGHT ON HOW TO CONTROL THE DEER POPULATION. THE KIDS WANT TO GO.
FINE WITH ME.
I JUST HOPE THERE'S A DECISION. THIS ISSUE HAS TAKEN OVER OUR HOUSE!
I THINK IT'S GREAT THE KIDS ARE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMETHING!
ME TOO. BUT THERE'S A LIMIT!
DAD, CAN PETA SET UP HEAD-QUARTERS IN THE DEN?
ARE THOSE SHOES LEATHER, DUDE?

THERE'S QUITE A TURN-OUT FOR THE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE DEER!
IT'S AMAZING HOW WORKED UP PEOPLE ARE!
SAVE THE DEER!
DEER SHOULD LIVE
THPLABON

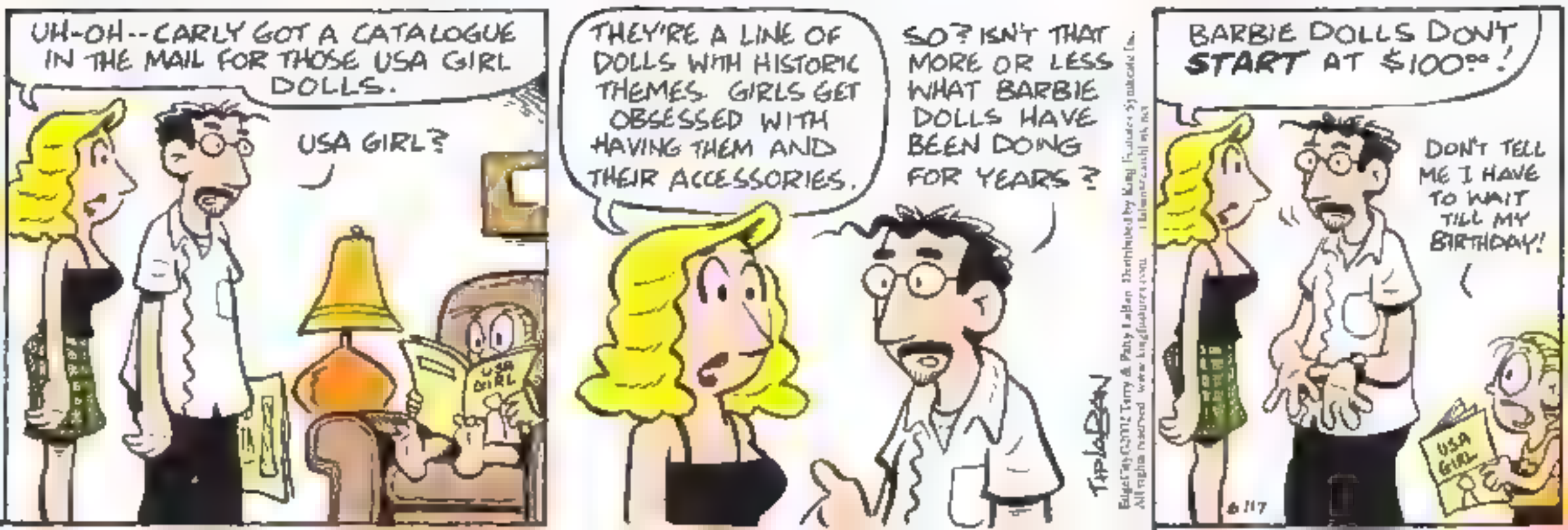
EMOTIONS ARE HIGH! I HOPE IT WAS WISE TO BRING THE KIDS.
I DONT THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY, ABBY...
6/12

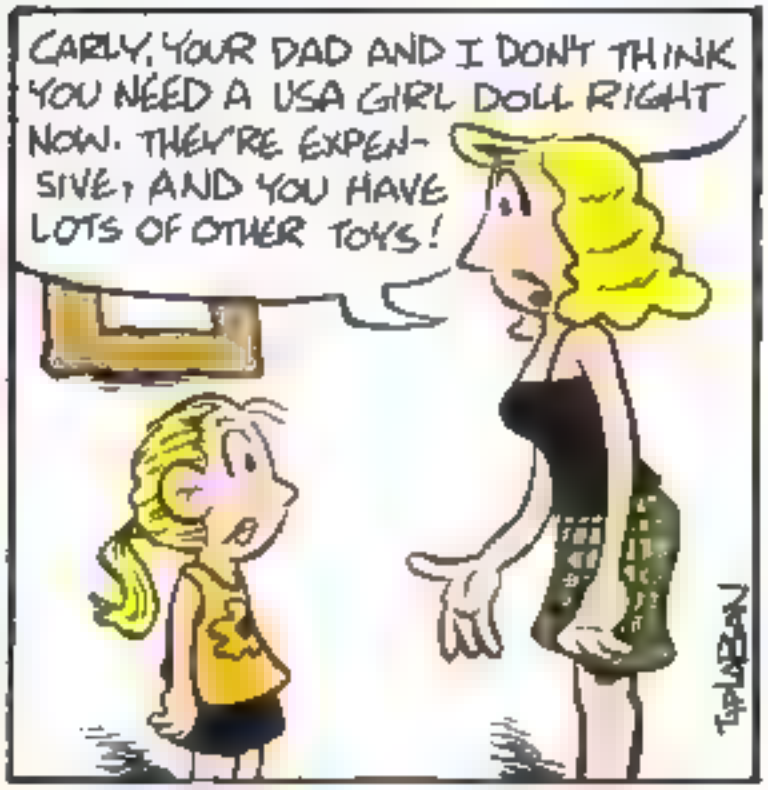
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S PLENTY OF SECURITY.
IF YOU WANNA SHOOT 'EM, GO TO THE LEFT... SAVE 'EM, TO THE RIGHT...
CITY HALL

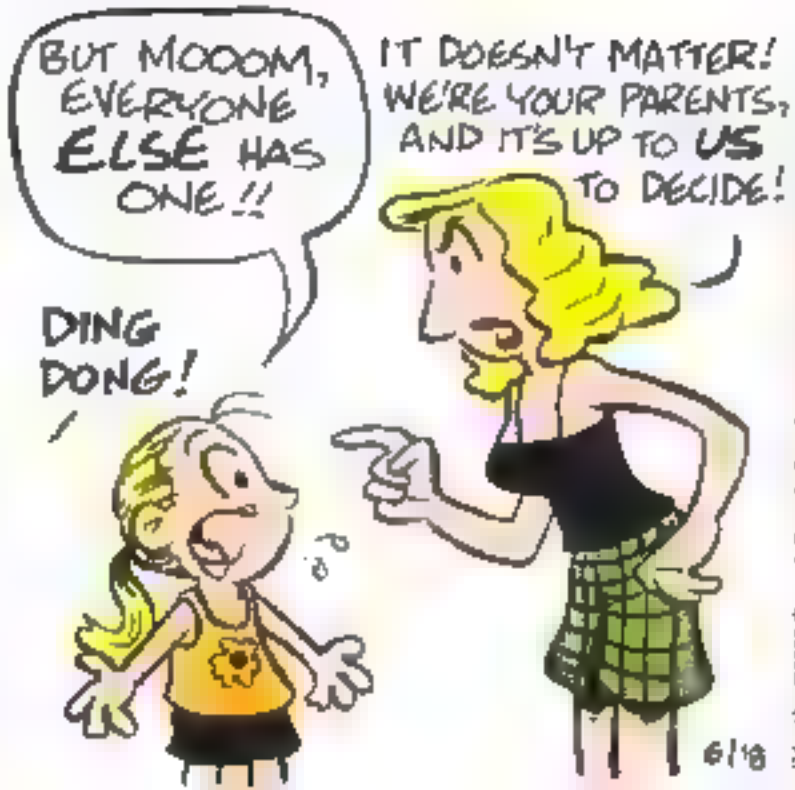

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON HOW THE CITY SHOULD CONTROL THE DEER POPULATION.
SAVE THE DEER
WHATEVER WE DECIDE, IT'S NICE TO SEE A CITY COUNCIL MEETING SO WELL-ATTENDED. THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
LET'S MOVE NOW TO THE QUESTION OF EXTENDING SEWER LINES TO THE UNINCORPORATED TOWNSHIP...
ZIP!
SAVE THE DEER!
DON'T SELL THEM!
6/13

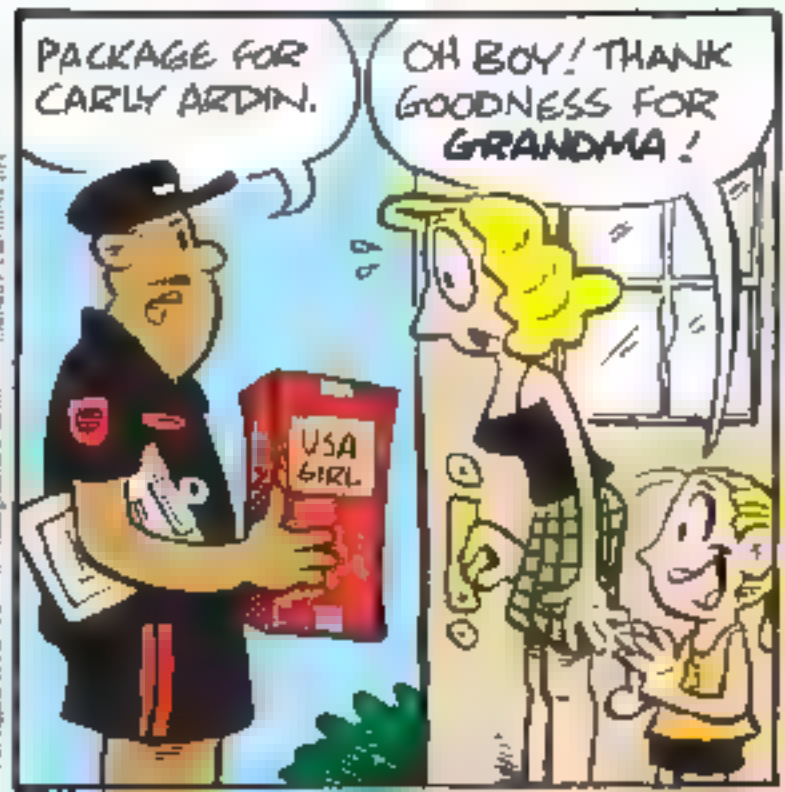

GUESS WHAT? BECAUSE OF PUBLIC PROTEST, THE CITY DECIDED NOT TO SHOOT THE DEER AFTER ALL!
YAY!!
TOLMAN 6/14
INSTEAD, THEY'RE GOING TO CONTROL THE DEER POPULATION BY STERILIZING THE DOES.
HUMPH!
WHAT'S WRONG, ABBY? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED THE DEER TO LIVE!
YEAH--BUT WHY IS BIRTH CONTROL ALWAYS THE GIRL'S RESPONSIBILITY?

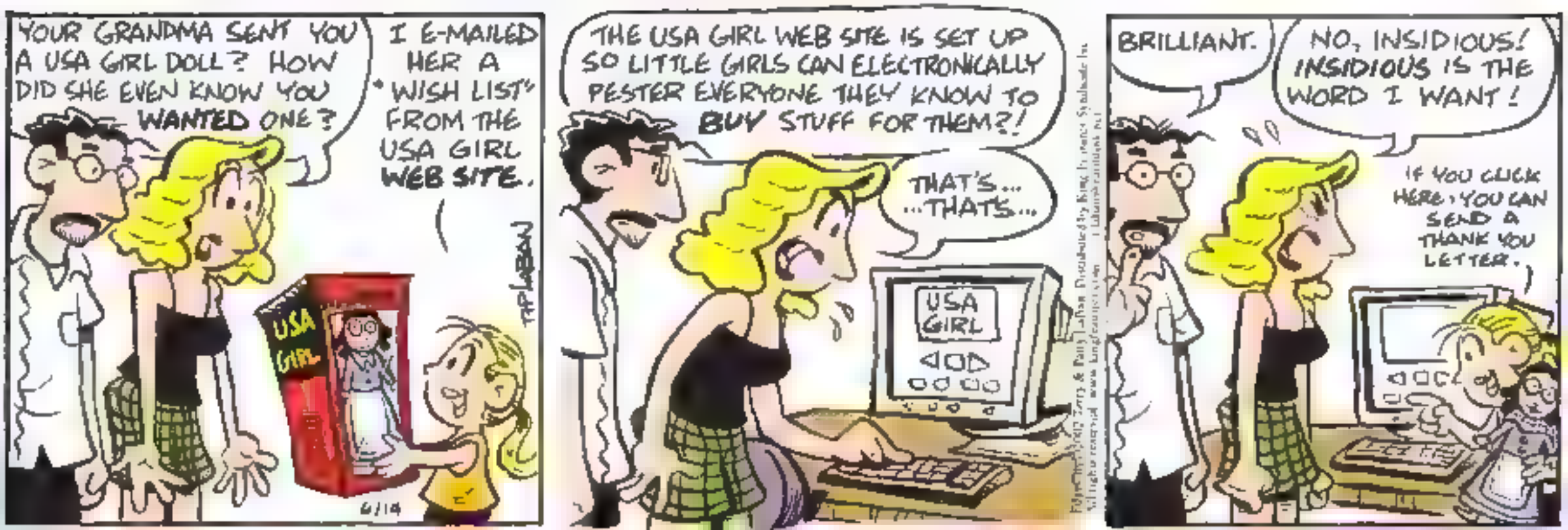
WHAT'S WITH THE KIDS?
THE CONTROVERSY OVER WHAT THE CITY SHOULD DO ABOUT THE DEER HAS LEFT THEM DISILLUSIONED.
BUT THEY WON! THE TOWN'S GOING TO STERILIZE THE DEER INSTEAD OF SHOOT THEM!
YEAH. BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT WILL COST A LOT MORE MONEY...
SO, THEY'VE CANCELLED PLANS TO TURN THE CITY POOL INTO A WATER PARK.
STUPID DEER!
PEOPLE HUNT THEM ALL THE TIME!

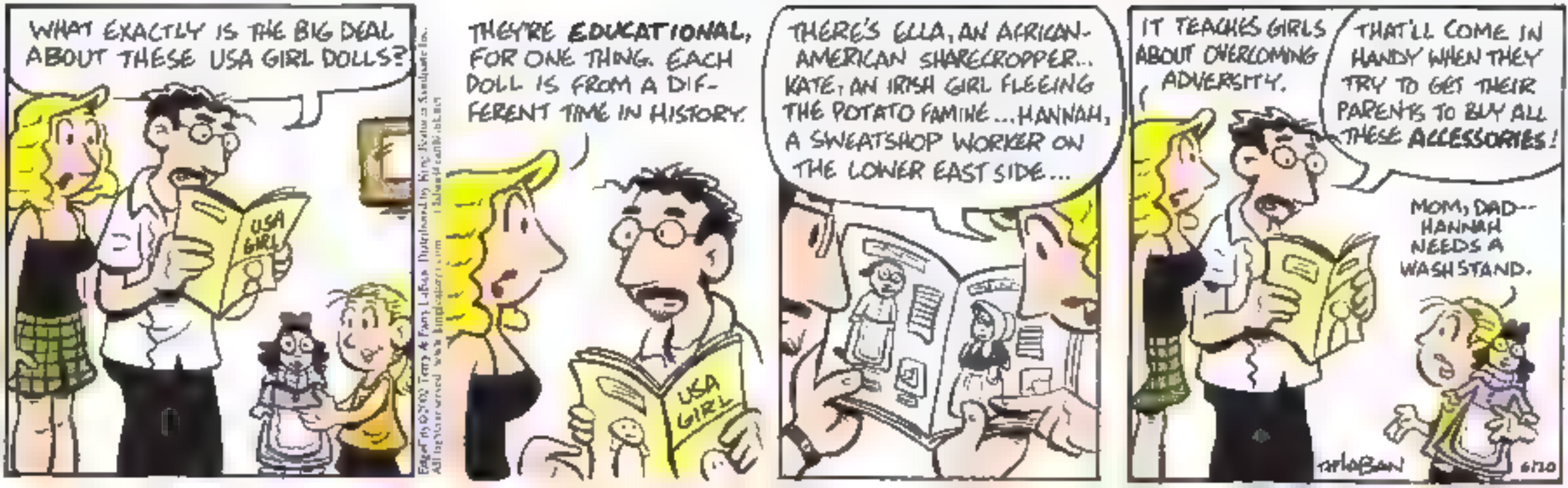

UH-OH--CARLY GOT A CATALOGUE IN THE MAIL FOR THOSE USA GIRL DOLLS.
USA GIRL?
USA GIRL
THEY'RE A LINE OF DOLLS WITH HISTORIC THEMES. GIRLS GET OBSESSED WITH HAVING THEM AND THEIR ACCESSORIES.
SO? ISN'T THAT MORE OR LESS WHAT BARBIE DOLLS HAVE BEEN DOING FOR YEARS?
BARBIE DOLLS DON'T START AT $100.00!
DON'T TELL ME I HAVE TO WAIT TILL MY BIRTHDAY!
USA GIRL
6/17


CARLY, YOUR DAD AND I DON'T THINK YOU NEED A USA GIRL DOLL RIGHT NOW. THEY'RE EXPENSIVE, AND YOU HAVE LOTS OF OTHER TOYS!
TAYLOR BLAN

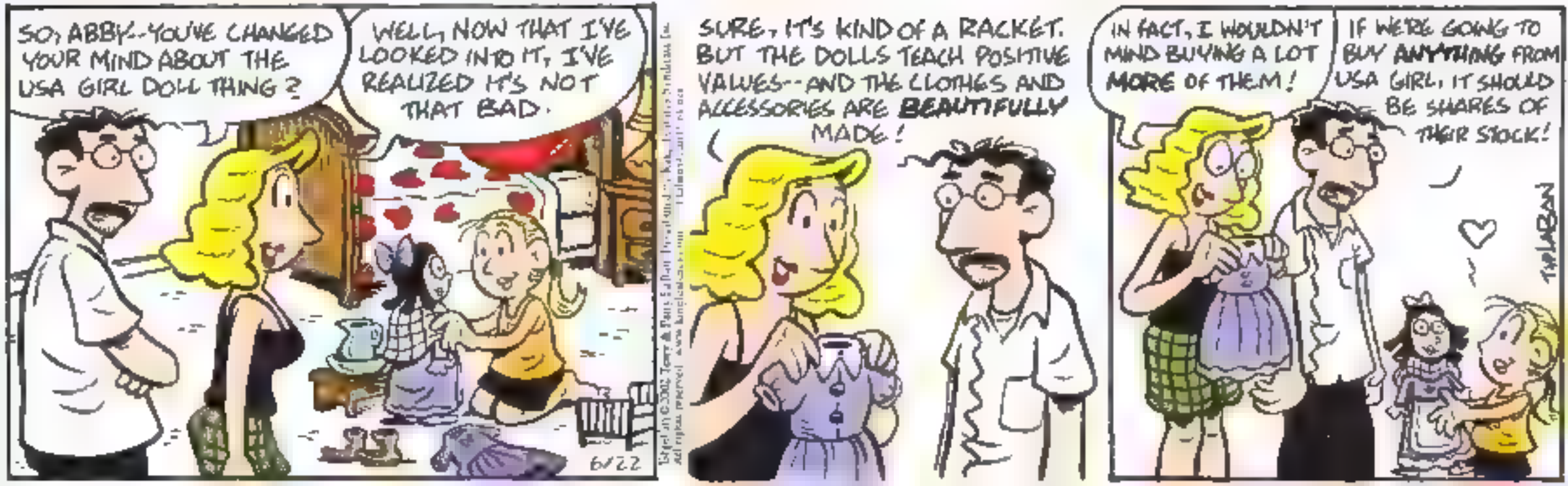

BUT MOOOM, EVERYONE ELSE HAS ONE!!
DING DONG!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'RE YOUR PARENTS, AND IT'S UP TO US TO DECIDE!
6/18

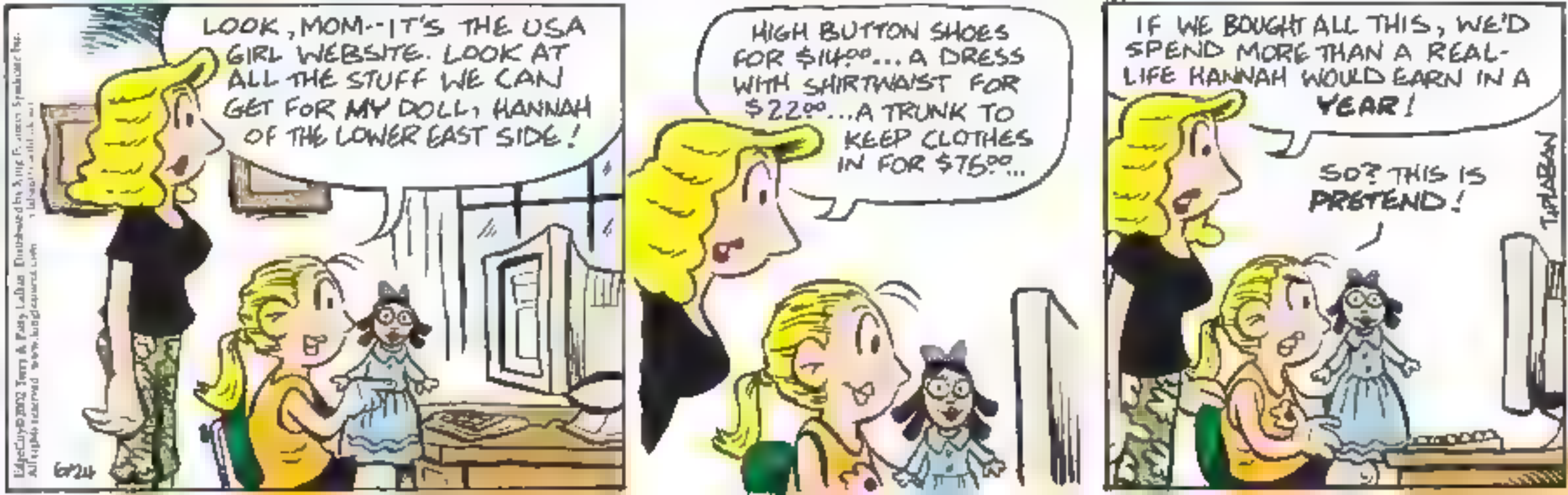

PACKAGE FOR CARLY ARDIN.
OH BOY! THANK GOODNESS FOR GRANDMA!
USA GIRL

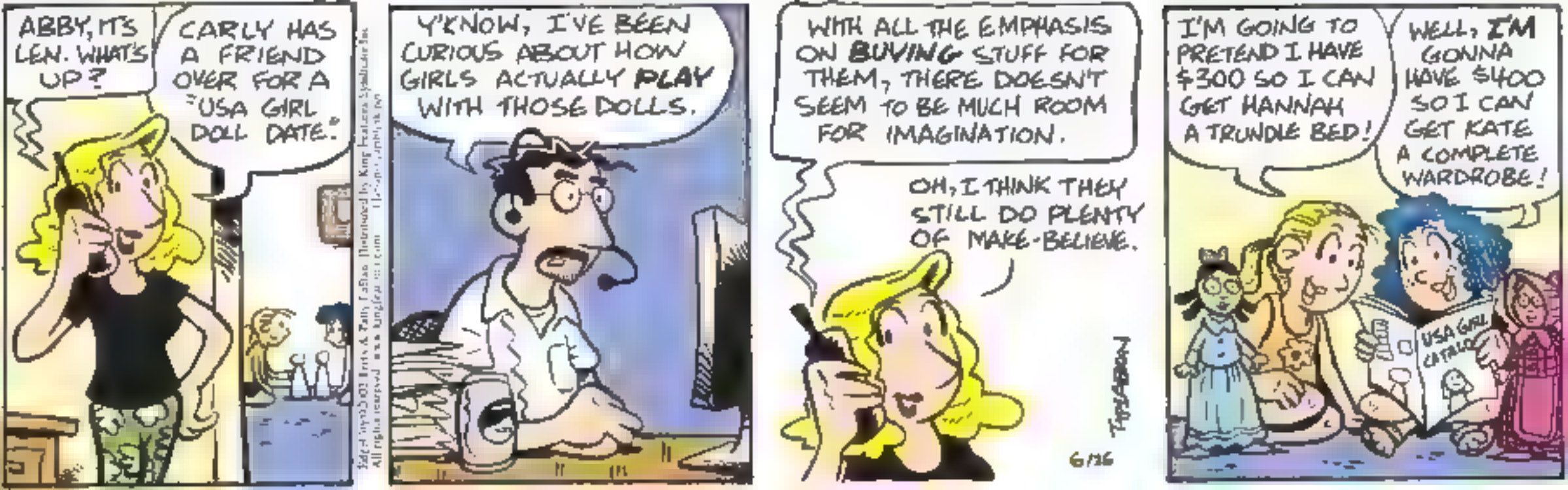

YOUR GRANDMA SENT YOU A USA GIRL DOLL? HOW DID SHE EVEN KNOW YOU WANTED ONE?
I E-MAILED HER A "WISH LIST" FROM THE USA GIRL WEB SITE.
USA GIRL
6/14
THE USA GIRL WEB SITE IS SET UP SO LITTLE GIRLS CAN ELECTRONICALLY PESTER EVERYONE THEY KNOW TO BUY STUFF FOR THEM?!
THAT'S... ...THAT'S...
USA GIRL
BRILLIANT.
NO, INSIDIOUS! INSIDIOUS IS THE WORD I WANT!
IF YOU CLICK HERE, YOU CAN SEND A THANK YOU LETTER.

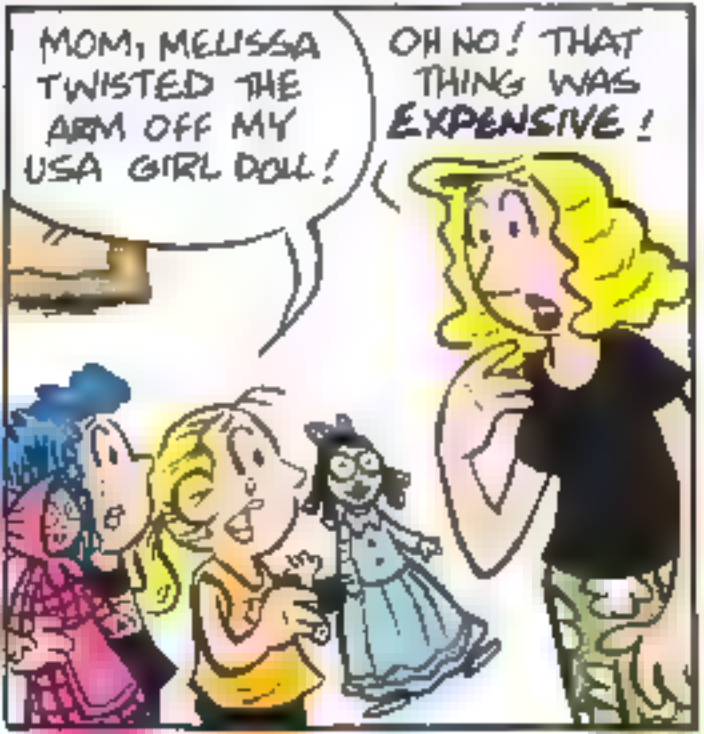

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THESE USA GIRL DOLLS?
USA GIRL
THEY'RE EDUCATIONAL, FOR ONE THING. EACH DOLL IS FROM A DIFFERENT TIME IN HISTORY.
USA GIRL
THERE'S ELLA, AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN SHARECROPPER... KATE, AN IRISH GIRL FLEEING THE POTATO FAMINE... HANNAH, A SWEATSHOP WORKER ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...
IT TEACHES GIRLS ABOUT OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.
THAT'LL COME IN HANDY WHEN THEY TRY TO GET THEIR PARENTS TO BUY ALL THESE ACCESSORIES!
MOM, DAD-- HANNAH NEEDS A WASH STAND.
TOLOBAN
6/20

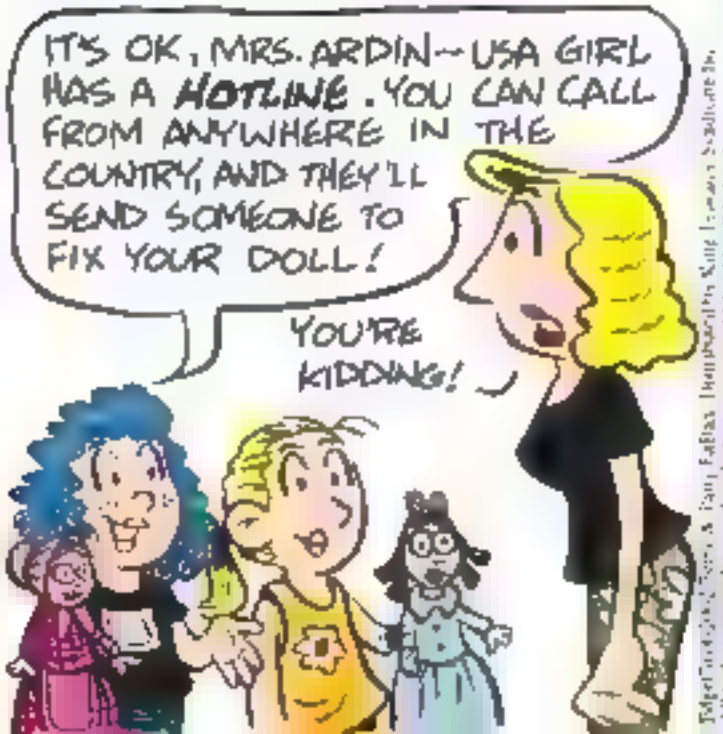
Y'KNOW, THIS BOOK THAT CAME WITH CARLY'S USA GIRL DOLL IS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD.
HANNAH'S STORY
THE NEW YORKER
THE STORY OF THE DOLL CHARACTER'S LIFE ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE IN THE EARLY 1900S IS WELL-WRITTEN AND EVEN KIND OF MOVING!
GIRL
HANNAH'S STORY
"HANNAH WIPED HER BROW WITH HER LINEN HANDKERCHIEF (PS-507 $5.00) AND BENT OVER HER SEWING MACHINE (PS-1522 $75.00)..."
NOT THAT YOU FORGET ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO FEATURE ACCESSORIES FROM THE CATALOGUE.
6/21 THURBER


SO, ABBY--YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT THE USA GIRL DOLL THING?
WELL, NOW THAT I'VE LOOKED INTO IT, I'VE REALIZED IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
6/22
SURE, IT'S KIND OF A RACKET. BUT THE DOLLS TEACH POSITIVE VALUES--AND THE CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES ARE BEAUTIFULLY MADE!
IN FACT, I WOULDN'T MIND BUYING A LOT MORE OF THEM!
IF WE'RE GOING TO BUY ANYTHING FROM USA GIRL, IT SHOULD BE SHARES OF THEIR STOCK!
TURBAN

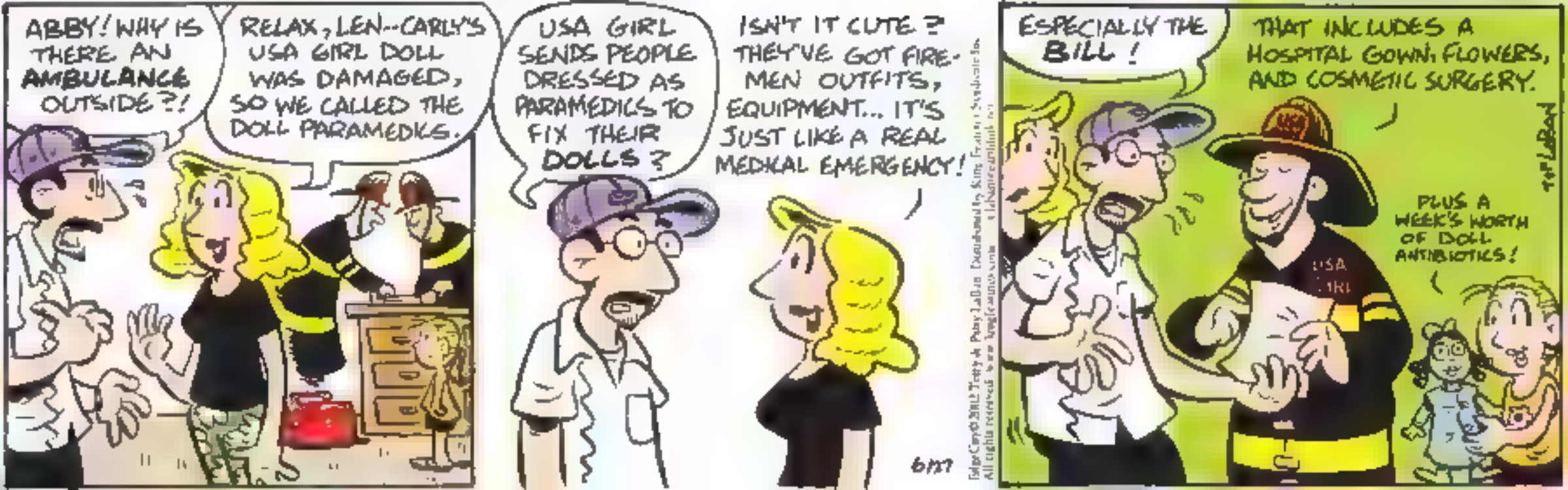

LOOK, MOM--IT'S THE USA GIRL WEBSITE. LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF WE CAN GET FOR MY DOLL, HANNAH OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE!
HIGH BUTTON SHOES FOR $14.00... A DRESS WITH SHIRTWAIST FOR $22.00...A TRUNK TO KEEP CLOTHES IN FOR $75.00...
IF WE BOUGHT ALL THIS, WE'D SPEND MORE THAN A REAL-LIFE HANNAH WOULD EARN IN A YEAR!
SO? THIS IS PRETEND!
TURAN


ABBY, IT'S LEN. WHAT'S UP?
CARLY HAS A FRIEND OVER FOR A "USA GIRL DOLL DATE."
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT HOW GIRLS ACTUALLY PLAY WITH THOSE DOLLS.
WITH ALL THE EMPHASIS ON BUYING STUFF FOR THEM, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH ROOM FOR IMAGINATION.
OH, I THINK THEY STILL DO PLENTY OF MAKE-BELIEVE.
6/26
I'M GOING TO PRETEND I HAVE $300 SO I CAN GET HANNAH A TRUNDLE BED!
WELL, I'M GONNA HAVE $400 SO I CAN GET KATE A COMPLETE WARDROBE!
USA GIRL CATALOG

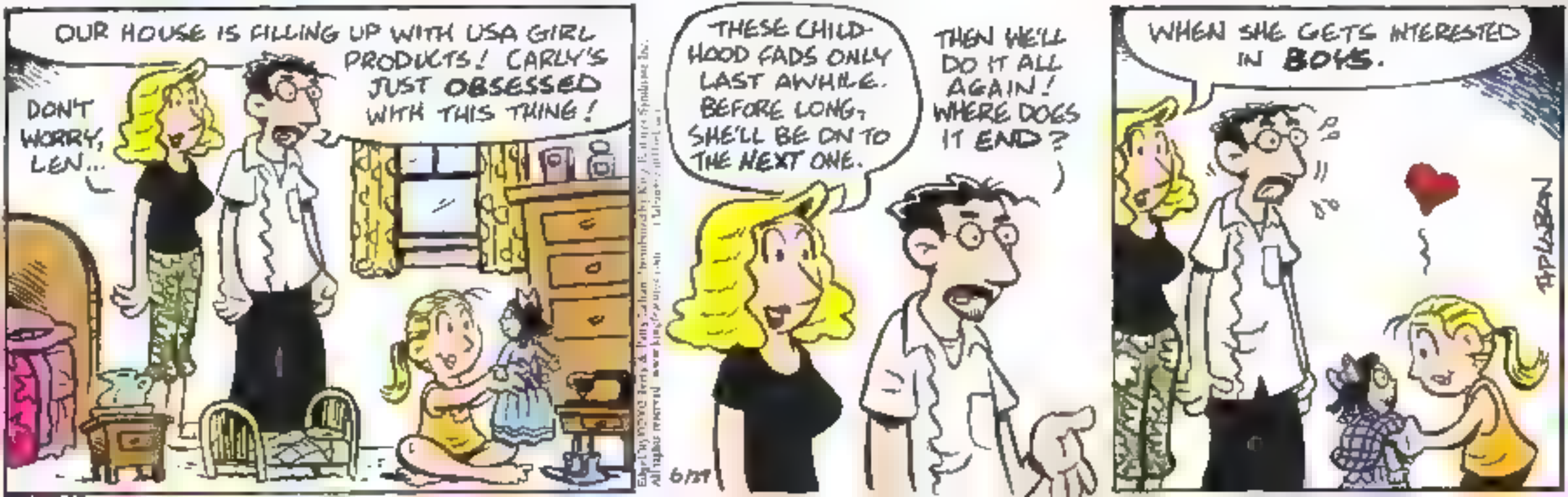

MOM, MELISSA TWISTED THE ARM OFF MY USA GIRL DOLL!
OH NO! THAT THING WAS EXPENSIVE!

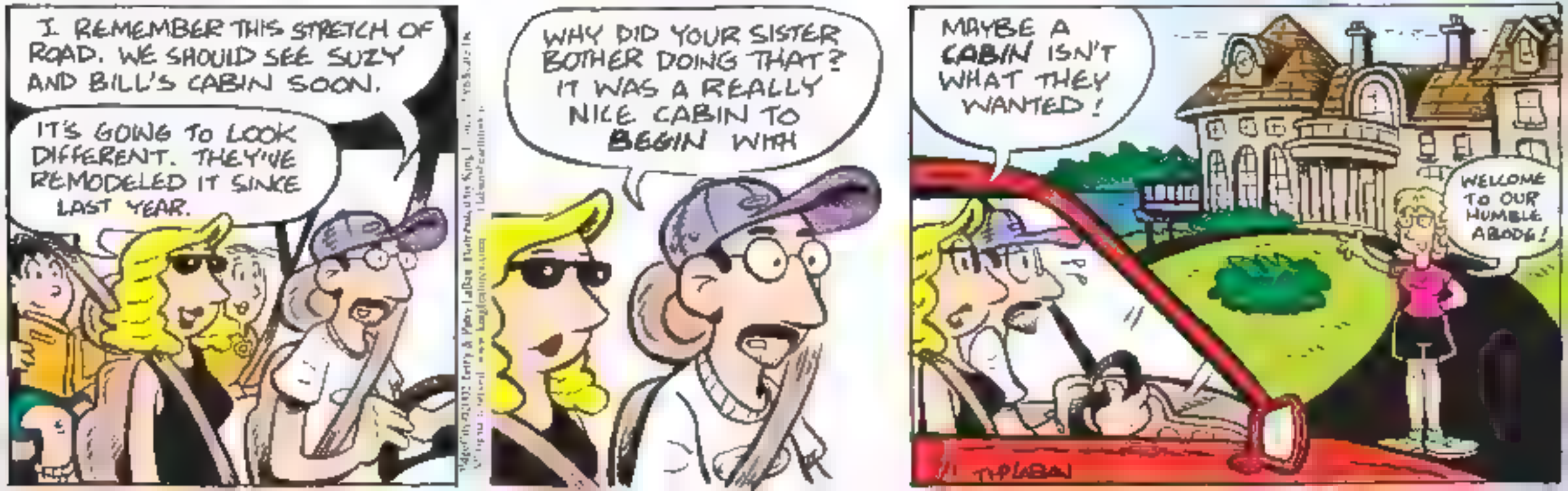

IT'S OK, MRS. ARDIN—USA GIRL HAS A HOTLINE. YOU CAN CALL FROM ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, AND THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE TO FIX YOUR DOLL!
YOU'RE KIDDING!

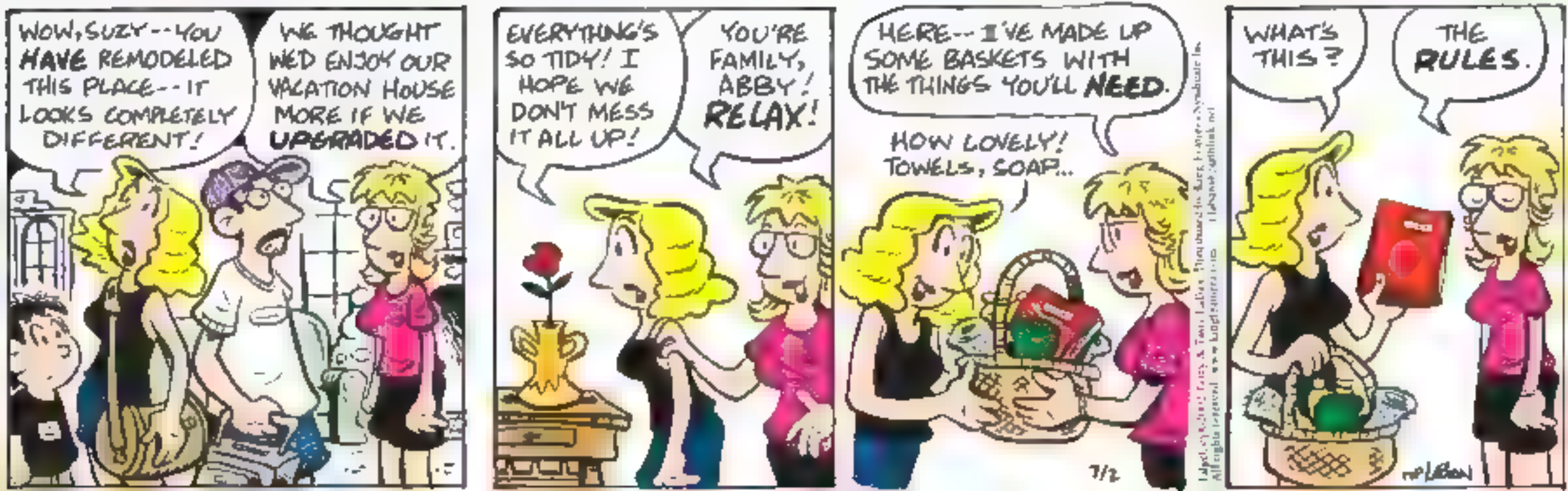
YOU HAVE A DOLL DOWN?
!
HURRY UP! WE'VE STARTED CPR!
USA GIRL
USA GIRL

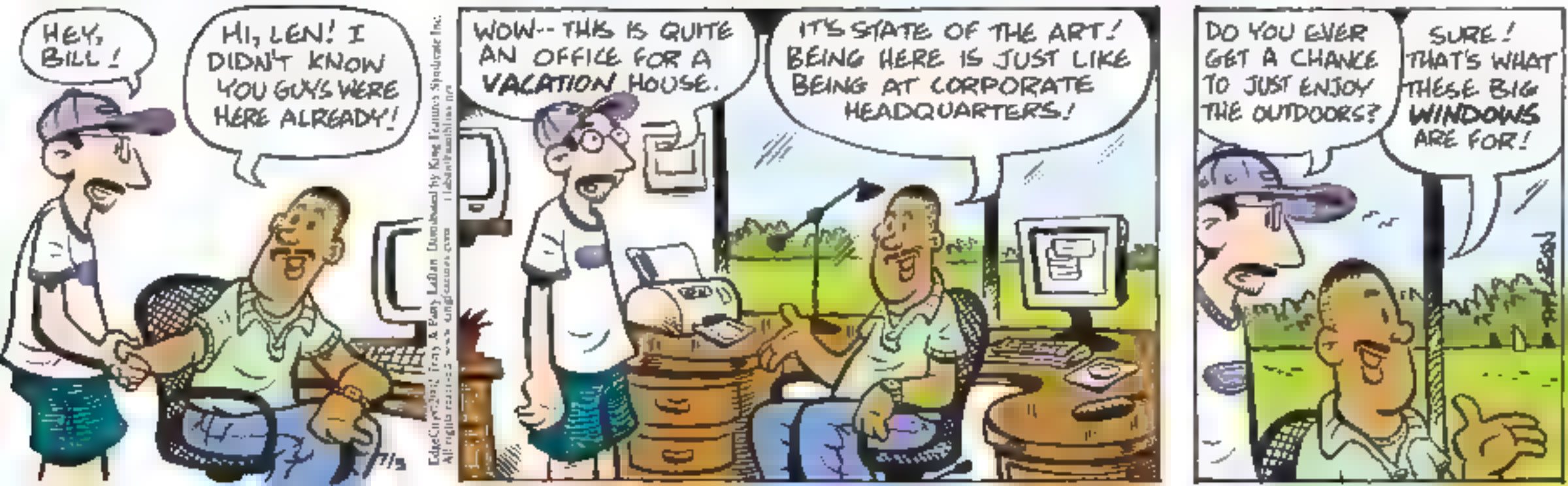

ABBY! WHY IS THERE AN AMBULANCE OUTSIDE?!
RELAX, LEN--CARLY'S USA GIRL DOLL WAS DAMAGED, SO WE CALLED THE DOLL PARAMEDICS.
USA GIRL SENDS PEOPLE DRESSED AS PARAMEDICS TO FIX THEIR DOLLS?
ISN'T IT CUTE? THEY'VE GOT FIREMEN OUTFITS, EQUIPMENT... IT'S JUST LIKE A REAL MEDICAL EMERGENCY!
6/27
ESPECIALLY THE BILL!
THAT INCLUDES A HOSPITAL GOWN, FLOWERS, AND COSMETIC SURGERY.
PLUS A WEEK'S WORTH OF DOLL ANTIBIOTICS!
USA

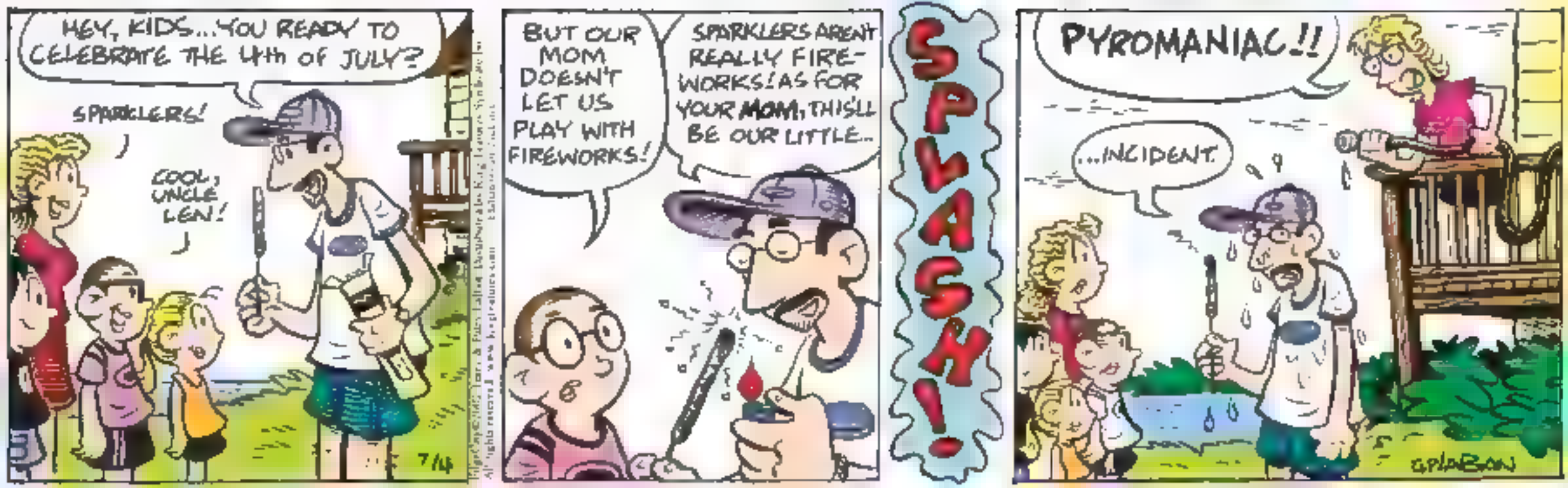
BOY, THESE USA GIRL DOLLS HAVE IT ALL COVERED! YOU CAN GET DOLL FURNITURE, BOOKS ABOUT THE DOLLS, EVEN HAIRDRESSERS TO DO THE DOLL'S HAIR!
CATALOGUE
DO YOU KNOW THEY MAKE CLOTHES FOR GIRLS SO THEY AND THEIR DOLLS CAN DRESS ALIKE?
AREN'T THE DOLLS SUPPOSED TO BE FROM DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS?
6/28
YEAH--BUT IT'S SOMETHING THE KIDS ACTUALLY SEEM TO GET INTO.
COULD SOMEONE TIGHTEN MY CORSET?
TOPLARSEN

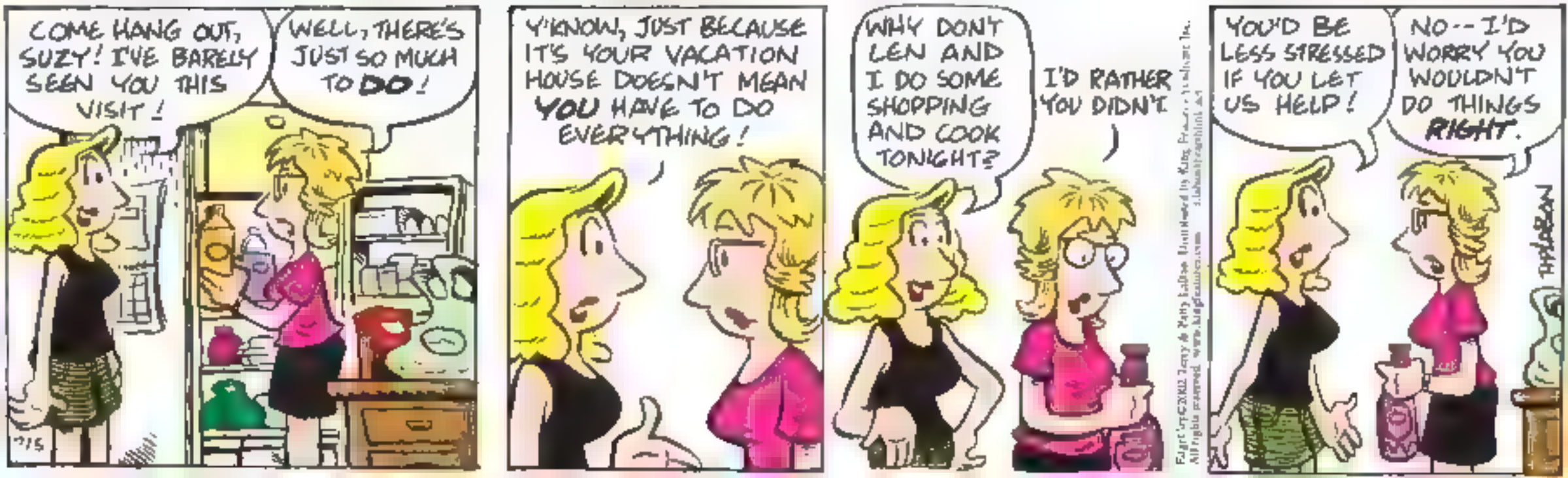

OUR HOUSE IS FILLING UP WITH USA GIRL PRODUCTS! CARLY'S JUST OBSESSED WITH THIS THING!
DON'T WORRY, LEN...
THESE CHILDHOOD FADS ONLY LAST AWHILE. BEFORE LONG, SHE'LL BE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.
THEN WE'LL DO IT ALL AGAIN! WHERE DOES IT END?
6/27
WHEN SHE GETS INTERESTED IN BOYS.

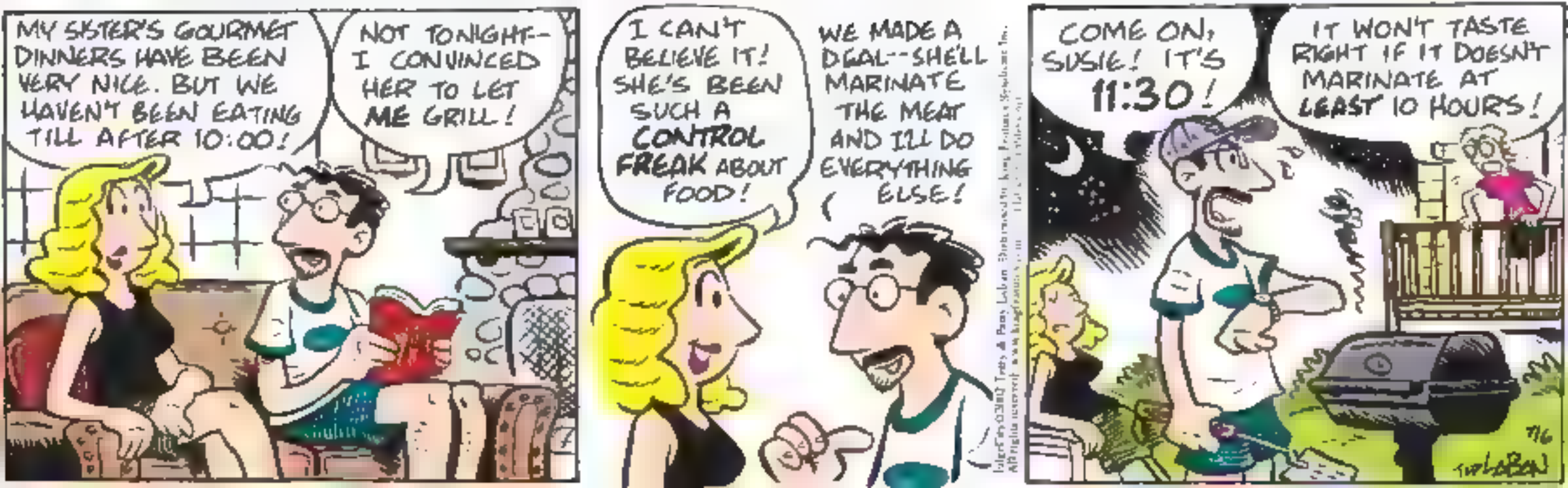

I REMEMBER THIS STRETCH OF ROAD. WE SHOULD SEE SUZY AND BILL'S CABIN SOON.
IT'S GOING TO LOOK DIFFERENT. THEY'VE REMODELED IT SINCE LAST YEAR.
WHY DID YOUR SISTER BOTHER DOING THAT? IT WAS A REALLY NICE CABIN TO BEGIN WITH
MAYBE A CABIN ISN'T WHAT THEY WANTED!
WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE ABODE!
TIP LABAN


WOW, SUZY--YOU HAVE REMODELED THIS PLACE--IT LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
WE THOUGHT WED ENJOY OUR VACATION HOUSE MORE IF WE UPGRADED IT.
EVERYTHING'S SO TIDY! I HOPE WE DON'T MESS IT ALL UP!
YOU'RE FAMILY, ABBY! RELAX!
HERE--I'VE MADE UP SOME BASKETS WITH THE THINGS YOU'LL NEED.
HOW LOVELY! TOWELS, SOAP...
7/2
WHAT'S THIS?
THE RULES.


HEY, BILL!
HI, LEN! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE HERE ALREADY!
WOW-- THIS IS QUITE AN OFFICE FOR A VACATION HOUSE.
IT'S STATE OF THE ART! BEING HERE IS JUST LIKE BEING AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS!
DO YOU EVER GET A CHANCE TO JUST ENJOY THE OUTDOORS?
SURE! THAT'S WHAT THESE BIG WINDOWS ARE FOR!

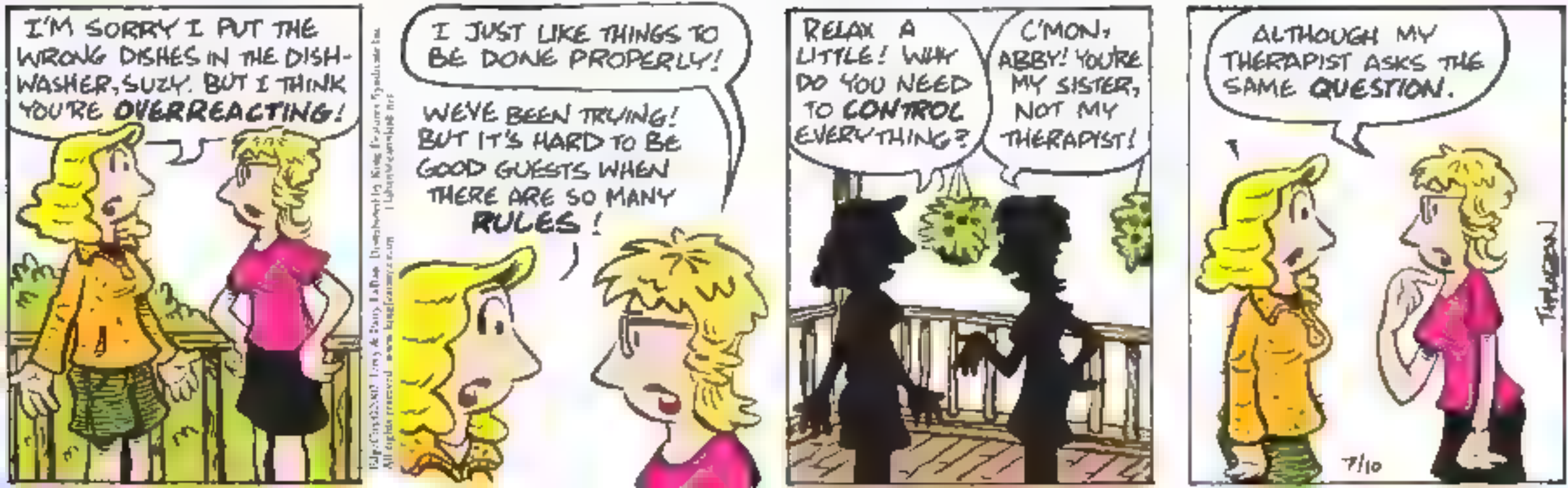

HEY, KIDS...YOU READY TO CELEBRATE THE 4th OF JULY?
SPARKLERS!
COOL, UNCLE LEN!
7/4
BUT OUR MOM DOESN'T LET US PLAY WITH FIREWORKS!
SPARKLERS AREN'T REALLY FIREWORKS! AS FOR YOUR MOM, THIS'LL BE OUR LITTLE...
SPLASH!
PYROMANIAC!!
...INCIDENT.

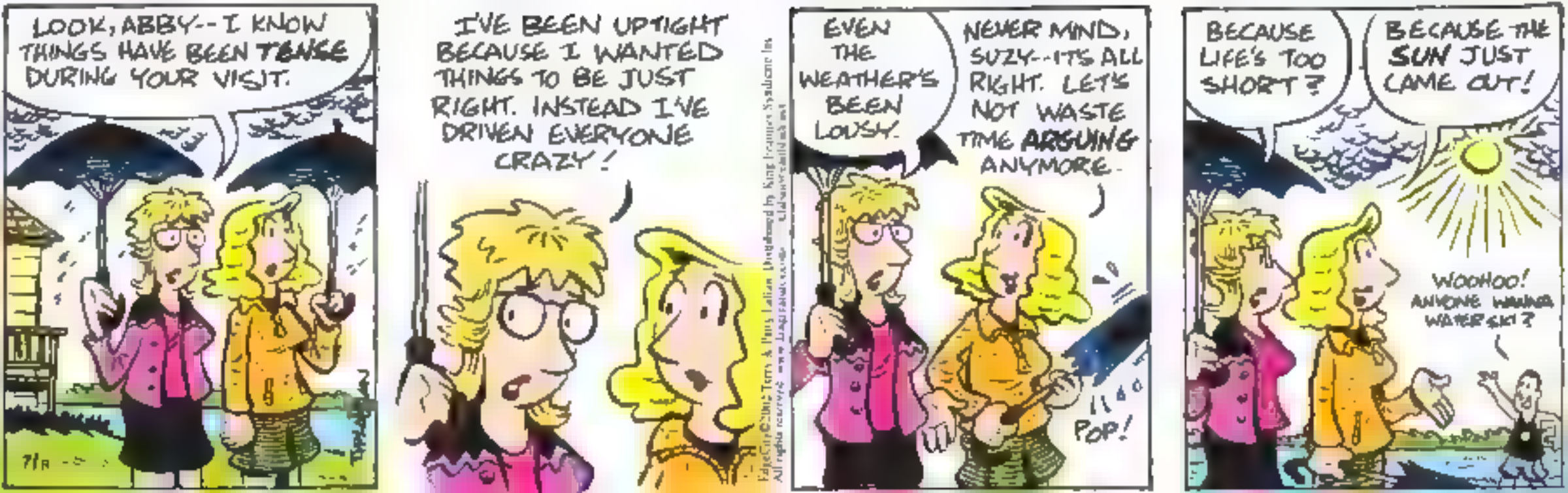

COME HANG OUT, SUZY! I'VE BARELY SEEN YOU THIS VISIT!
WELL, THERE'S JUST SO MUCH TO DO!
Y'KNOW, JUST BECAUSE IT'S YOUR VACATION HOUSE DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING!
WHY DON'T LEN AND I DO SOME SHOPPING AND COOK TONIGHT?
I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T
YOU'D BE LESS STRESSED IF YOU LET US HELP!
NO -- I'D WORRY YOU WOULDN'T DO THINGS RIGHT.


MY SISTER'S GOURMET DINNERS HAVE BEEN VERY NICE. BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN EATING TILL AFTER 10:00!
NOT TONIGHT-- I CONVINCED HER TO LET ME GRILL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S BEEN SUCH A CONTROL FREAK ABOUT FOOD!
WE MADE A DEAL--SHE'LL MARINATE THE MEAT AND I'LL DO EVERYTHING ELSE!
COME ON, SUSIE! IT'S 11:30!
IT WON'T TASTE RIGHT IF IT DOESN'T MARINATE AT LEAST 10 HOURS!
7/6
TOLABAN

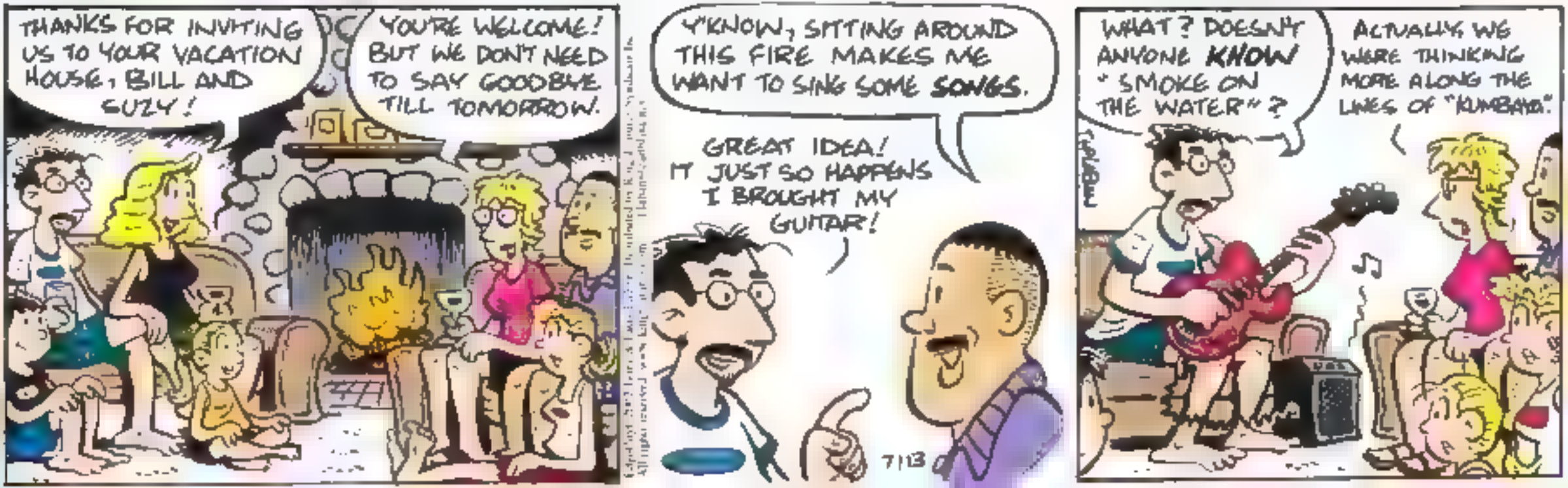
BETWEEN BILL WORKING ALL THE TIME AND YOUR SISTER TRYING TO CONTROL EVERYTHING, THIS IS TURNING INTO A PRETTY **TENSE** VACATION.
7/8
I JUST WISH IT WASN'T SO OVERCAST AND RAINY. IT'D BE BETTER IF WE COULD ALL BE **OUTSIDE**.
MAYBE.
COULD YOU PLEASE NOT STAND THERE? YOU'RE TRAMPLING THE LICHEN!
TOM LABBON

I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE ANOTHER DAY OF YOUR SISTER TELLING US HOW TO BEHAVE!
YEAH--THE TENSION'S PRETTY THICK IN THIS VACATION HOUSE.
WE REALLY OUGHT TO SAY SOMETHING.
WE'RE THEIR GUESTS, LEN. I DON'T WANT TO START A CONFRONTATION.
HOW ABOUT FINISHING ONE?
ABBY! YOU PUT THE MELAMINE IN THE DISHWASHER!!


I'M SORRY I PUT THE WRONG DISHES IN THE DISHWASHER, SUZY. BUT I THINK YOU'RE OVERREACTING!
I JUST LIKE THINGS TO BE DONE PROPERLY!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING! BUT IT'S HARD TO BE GOOD GUESTS WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY RULES!
RELAX A LITTLE! WHY DO YOU NEED TO CONTROL EVERYTHING?
C'MON, ABBY! YOU'RE MY SISTER, NOT MY THERAPIST!
ALTHOUGH MY THERAPIST ASKS THE SAME QUESTION.
7/10


LOOK, ABBY--I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN TENSE DURING YOUR VISIT.
I'VE BEEN UPTIGHT BECAUSE I WANTED THINGS TO BE JUST RIGHT. INSTEAD I'VE DRIVEN EVERYONE CRAZY!
EVEN THE WEATHER'S BEEN LOUSY.
NEVER MIND, SUZY--IT'S ALL RIGHT. LET'S NOT WASTE TIME ARGUING ANYMORE.
POP!
BECAUSE LIFE'S TOO SHORT?
BECAUSE THE SUN JUST CAME OUT!
WOOHOO! ANYONE WANNA WATERSKI?

OUR WEEK AT YOUR SISTER'S GOT OFF TO A ROCKY START, ABBY, BUT TODAY THINGS SEEM A LOT BETTER.
THE SUN'S OUT, THE KIDS ARE HAVING FUN, AND I'M FINALLY STARTING TO ENJOY MYSELF!
TOO BAD WE HAVE TO LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
NEXT TIME, WE SHOULD TRY TO SAVE THE ROCKY PART FOR THE END.
7/12


THANKS FOR INVITING US TO YOUR VACATION HOUSE, BILL AND SUZY!
YOU'RE WELCOME! BUT WE DON'T NEED TO SAY GOODBYE TILL TOMORROW.
Y'KNOW, SITTING AROUND THIS FIRE MAKES ME WANT TO SING SOME SONGS.
GREAT IDEA! IT JUST SO HAPPENS I BROUGHT MY GUITAR!
7/13
WHAT? DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW "SMOKE ON THE WATER"?
ACTUALLY, WE WERE THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF "KUMBAYA."

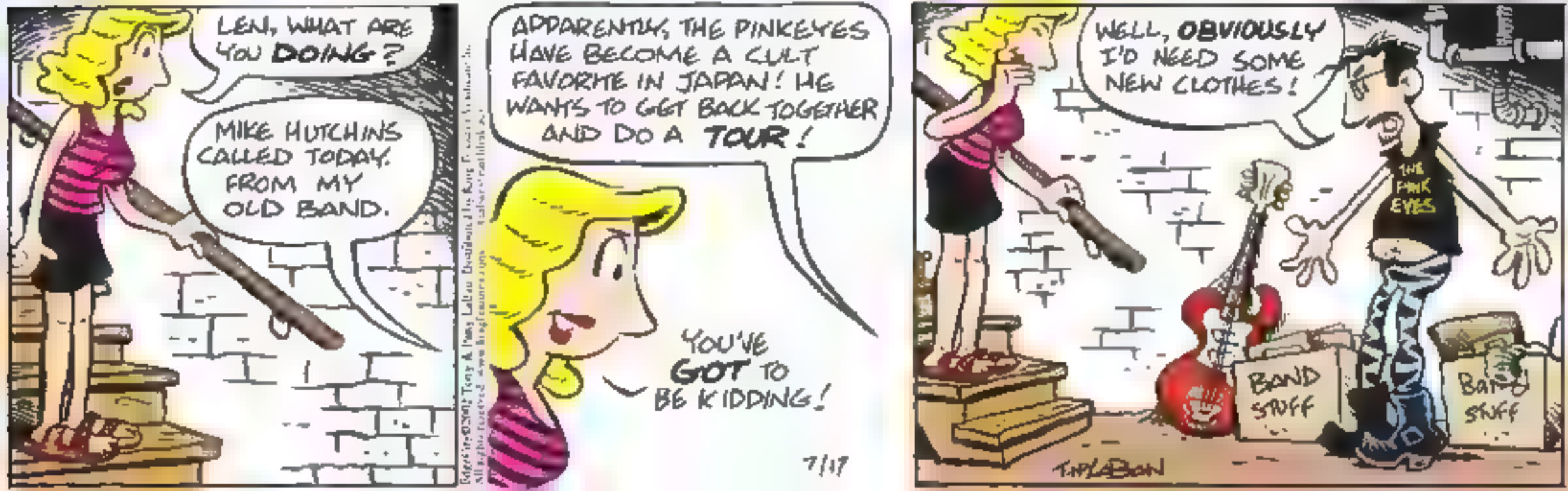
HEY, LEN-- IT'S MIKE HUTCHINS!
FROM OUR OLD BAND? HEY, MAN! HOW YOU DOING?
ALL RIGHT! LISTEN-- YOU KNOW THAT 7-INCH WE PUT OUT BACK IN '86?
SURE! I STILL HAVE A FEW COPIES. WHY?
7/16
HAVE YOU TRIED PUNCHING IT UP ON EBAY LATELY?
NO...BUT I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW. LET'S SEE...*THE PINKEYES*...
HOLY COW! THAT'S MORE THAN WE MADE THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE TOGETHER!
IT'S TAKEN 15 YEARS, BUT I THINK OUR TIME HAS COME!
TOM LABRAN

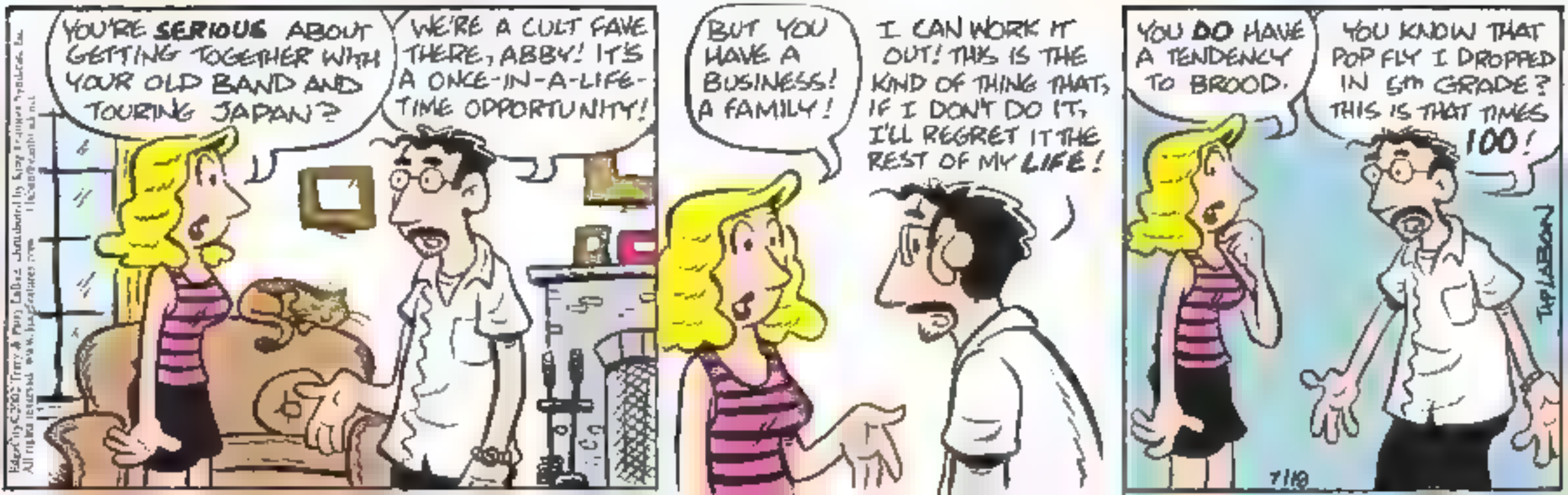
WOW, MIKE! I CAN'T BELIEVE COLLECTORS ARE PAYING SO MUCH FOR OUR OLD BAND'S 7-INCH!
THAT'S NOT ALL-- WE'VE BECOME A CULT PHENOMENON IN JAPAN!

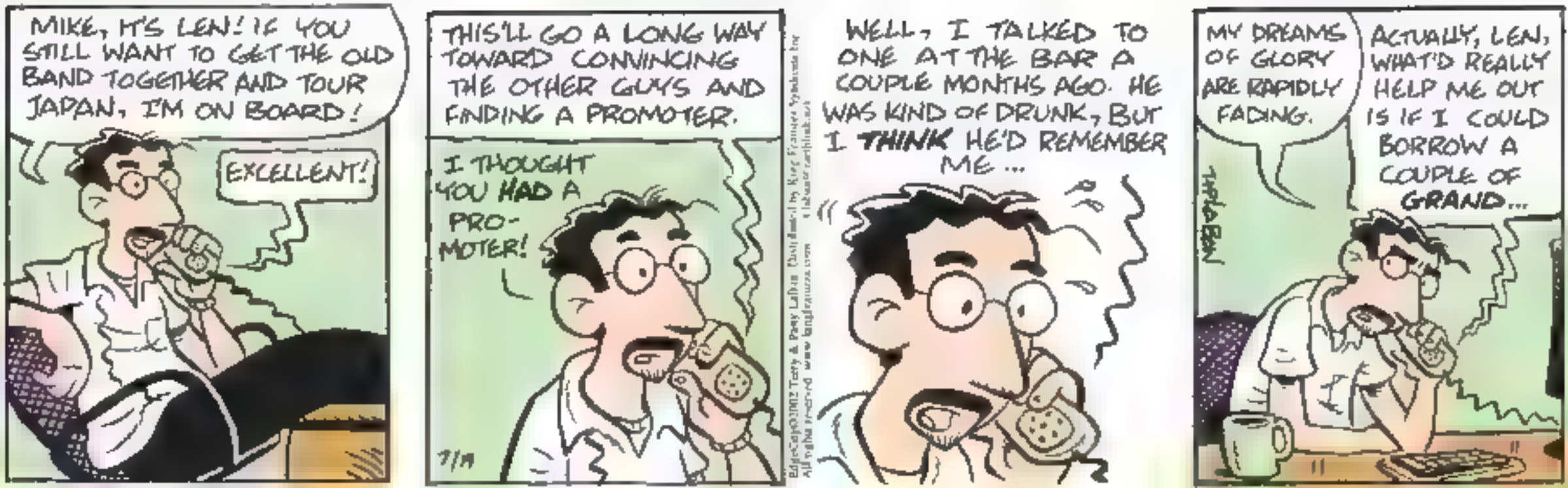
OUR BAND? THE PINKEYES? COME ON!
IT'S TRUE! IN FACT, THERE'S A PROMOTER INTERESTED IN GETTING US BACK TOGETHER FOR A TOUR!
7/16

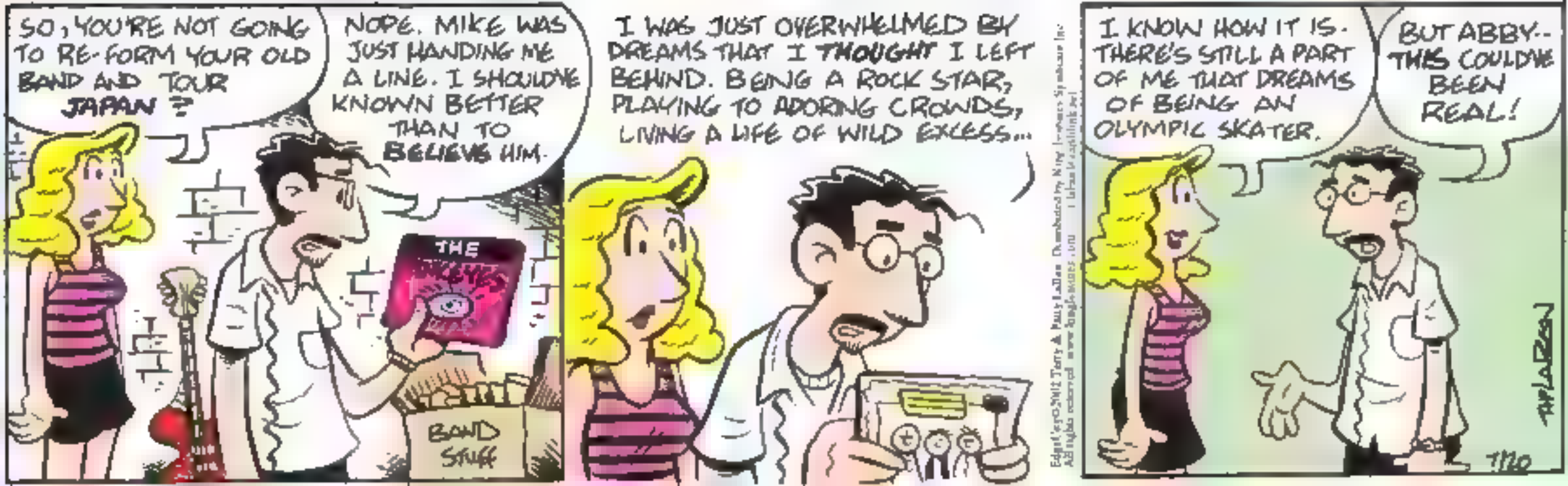
JUST THINK, LEN-- SOLD OUT HALLS... SCREAMING GIRLS...
SOUNDS GREAT...

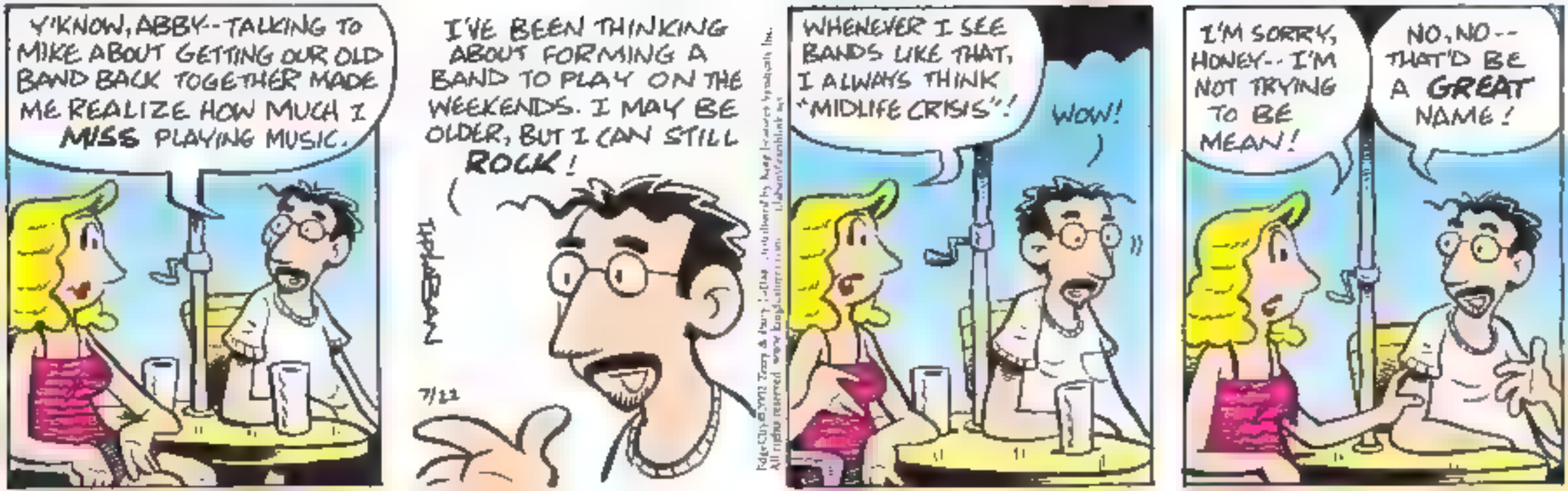
I JUST NEED A PLACE TO STORE MY LIFE.
LEN, YOUR WIFE JUST CALLED. YOUR SON'S THROWING UP!

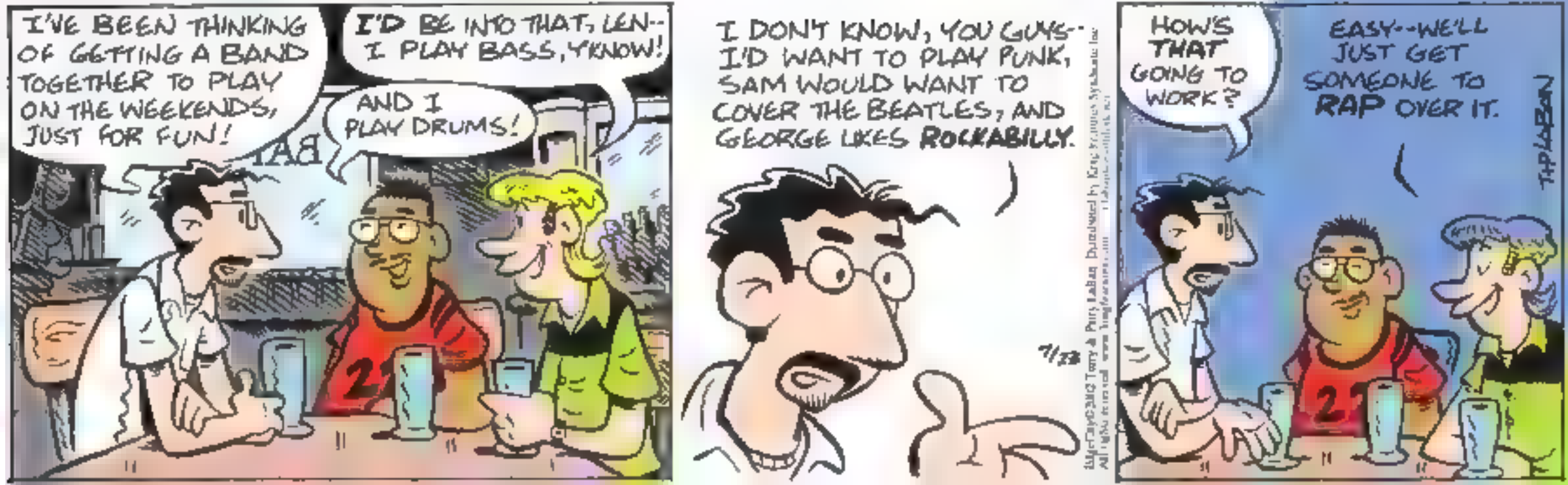

LEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MIKE HUTCHINS CALLED TODAY. FROM MY OLD BAND.
APPARENTLY, THE PINKEYES HAVE BECOME A CULT FAVORITE IN JAPAN! HE WANTS TO GET BACK TOGETHER AND DO A TOUR!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
7/17
WELL, OBVIOUSLY I'D NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES!
THE PINK EYES
BAND STUFF
BAND STUFF
TRPLABON

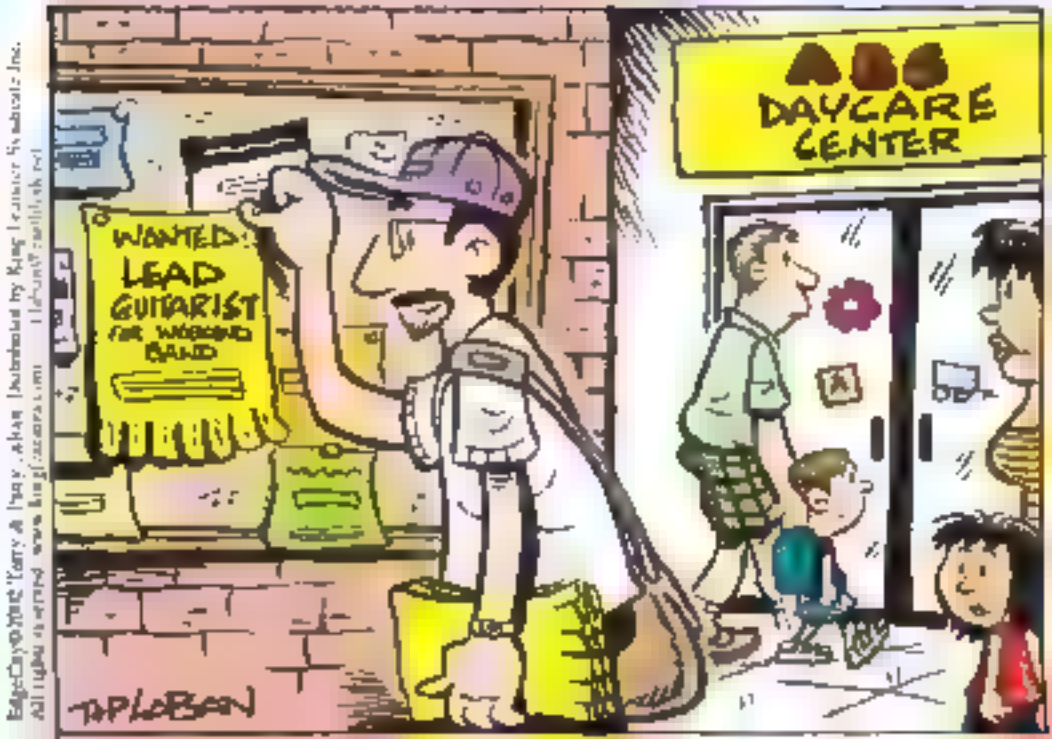

YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING TOGETHER WITH YOUR OLD BAND AND TOURING JAPAN?
WE'RE A CULT FAVE THERE, ABBY! IT'S A ONCE-IN-A-LIFE-TIME OPPORTUNITY!
BUT YOU HAVE A BUSINESS! A FAMILY!
I CAN WORK IT OUT! THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT, IF I DON'T DO IT, I'LL REGRET IT THE REST OF MY LIFE!
YOU DO HAVE A TENDENCY TO BROOD.
YOU KNOW THAT POP FLY I DROPPED IN 5th GRADE? THIS IS THAT TIMES 100!
7/10


MIKE, IT'S LEN! IF YOU STILL WANT TO GET THE OLD BAND TOGETHER AND TOUR JAPAN, I'M ON BOARD!
EXCELLENT!
THIS'LL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD CONVINCING THE OTHER GUYS AND FINDING A PROMOTER.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD A PRO-MOTER!
7/19
WELL, I TALKED TO ONE AT THE BAR A COUPLE MONTHS AGO. HE WAS KIND OF DRUNK, BUT I THINK HE'D REMEMBER ME...
MY DREAMS OF GLORY ARE RAPIDLY FADING.
ACTUALLY, LEN, WHAT'D REALLY HELP ME OUT IS IF I COULD BORROW A COUPLE OF GRAND...
TAPLA BAN


SO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RE-FORM YOUR OLD BAND AND TOUR JAPAN ?
NOPE. MIKE WAS JUST HANDING ME A LINE. I SHOULDVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO BELIEVE HIM.
THE
BAND STUFF
I WAS JUST OVERWHELMED BY DREAMS THAT I THOUGHT I LEFT BEHIND. BEING A ROCK STAR, PLAYING TO ADORING CROWDS, LIVING A LIFE OF WILD EXCESS...
I KNOW HOW IT IS. THERE'S STILL A PART OF ME THAT DREAMS OF BEING AN OLYMPIC SKATER.
BUT ABBY.. THIS COULDVE BEEN REAL!


Y'KNOW, ABBY--TALKING TO MIKE ABOUT GETTING OUR OLD BAND BACK TOGETHER MADE ME REALIZE HOW MUCH I MISS PLAYING MUSIC.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT FORMING A BAND TO PLAY ON THE WEEKENDS. I MAY BE OLDER, BUT I CAN STILL ROCK!
7/22
WHENEVER I SEE BANDS LIKE THAT, I ALWAYS THINK "MIDLIFE CRISIS"!
WOW!
I'M SORRY, HONEY-- I'M NOT TRYING TO BE MEAN!
NO, NO-- THAT'D BE A GREAT NAME!


I'VE BEEN THINKING OF GETTING A BAND TOGETHER TO PLAY ON THE WEEKENDS, JUST FOR FUN!
I'D BE INTO THAT, LEN-- I PLAY BASS, Y'KNOW!
AND I PLAY DRUMS!
I DON'T KNOW, YOU GUYS-- I'D WANT TO PLAY PUNK, SAM WOULD WANT TO COVER THE BEATLES, AND GEORGE LIKES ROCKABILLY.
HOW'S THAT GOING TO WORK?
EASY--WE'LL JUST GET SOMEONE TO RAP OVER IT.



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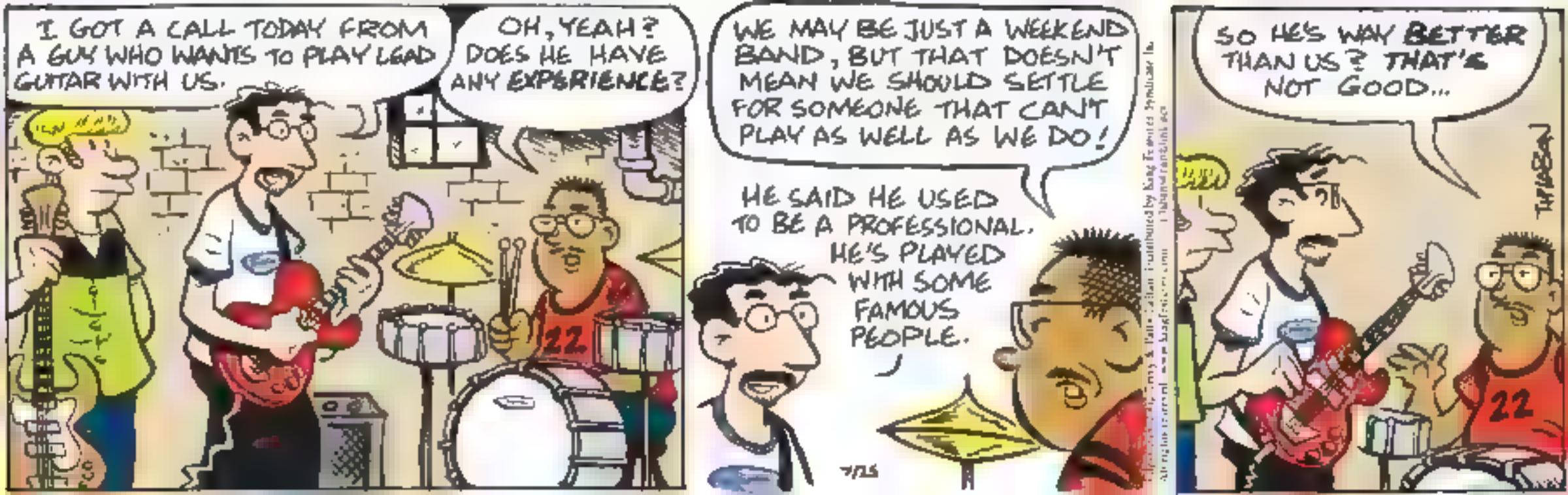
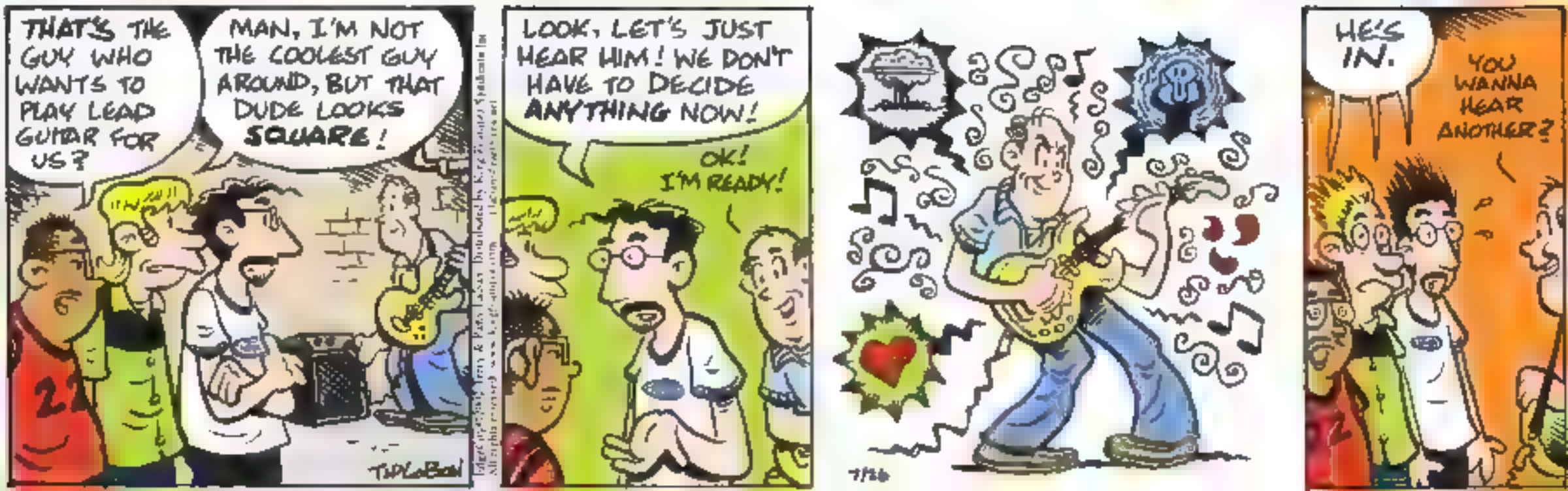
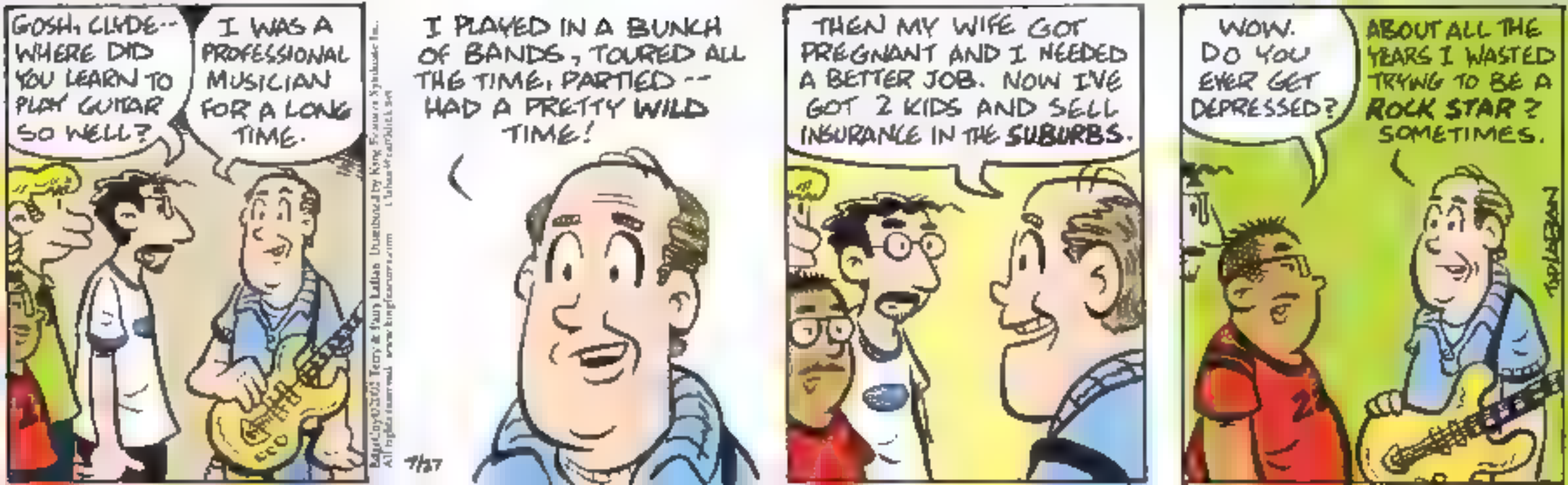
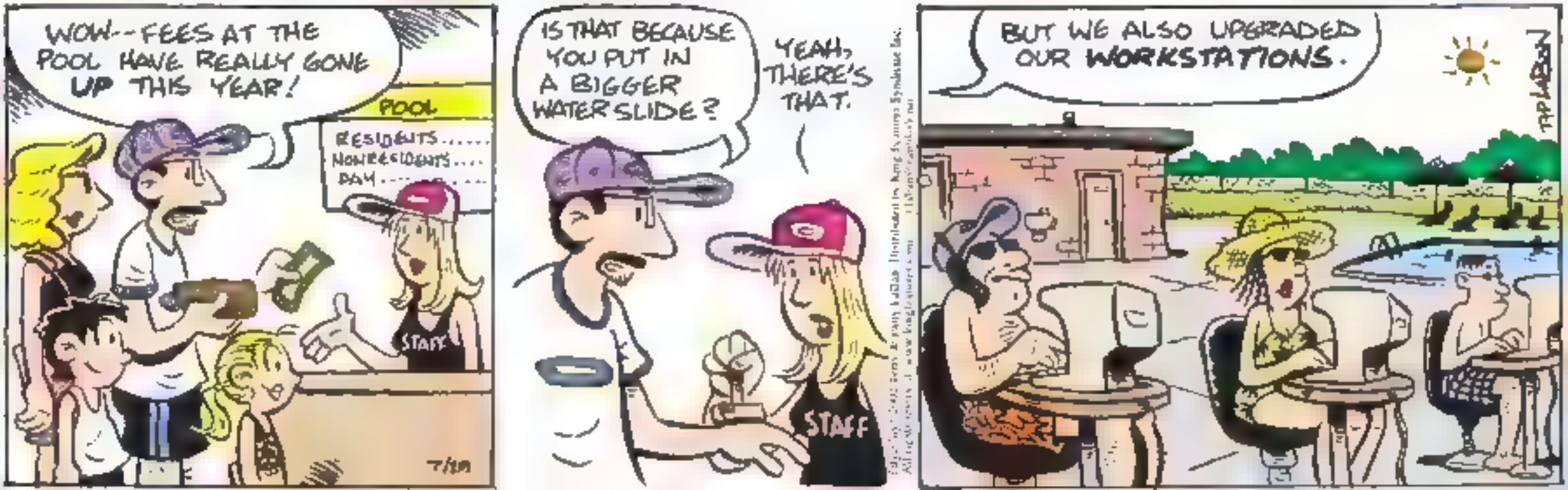
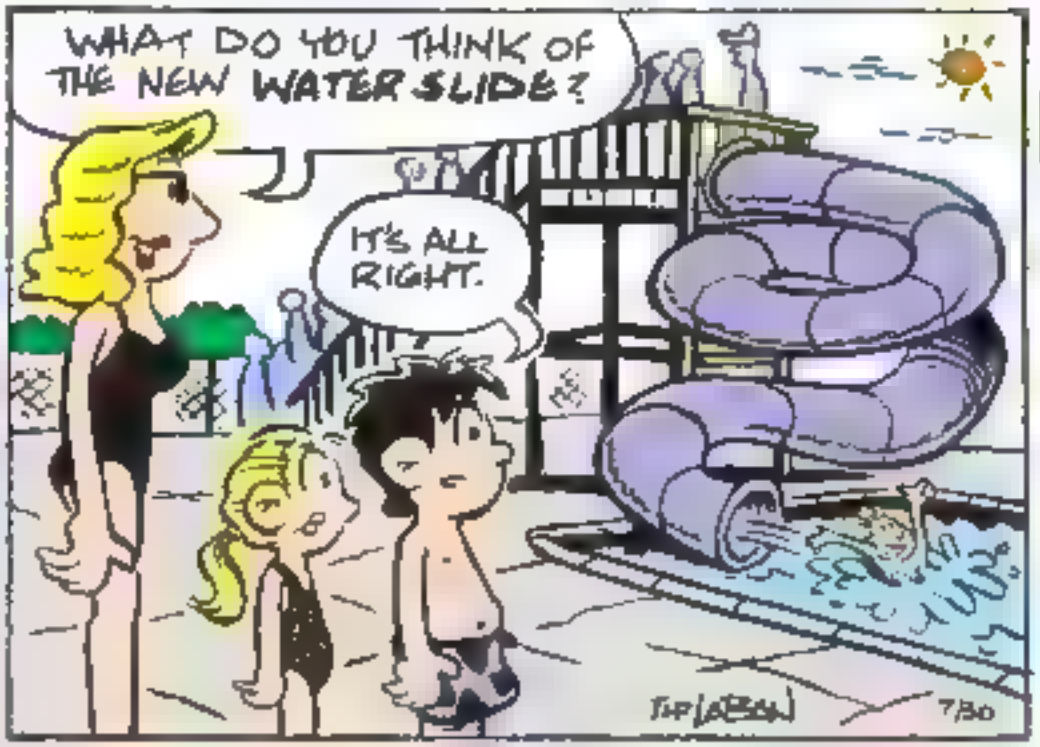
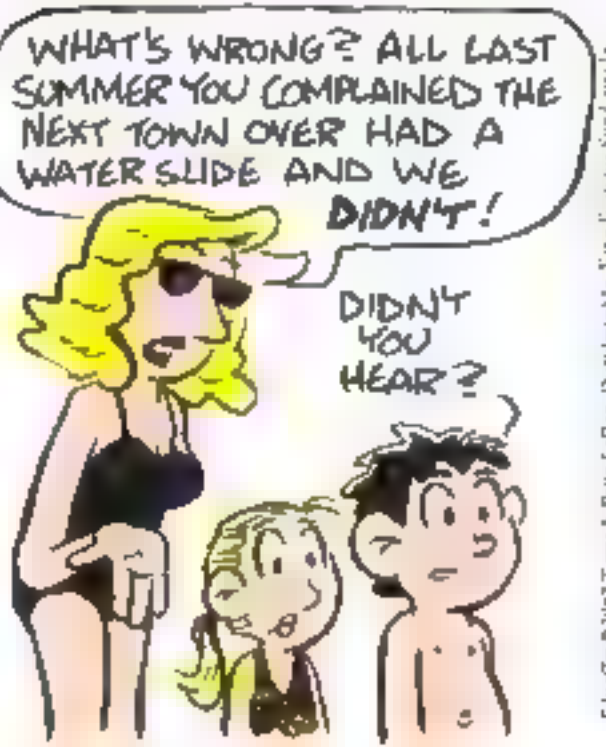

I GOT A CALL TODAY FROM A GUY WHO WANTS TO PLAY LEAD GUITAR WITH US.
OH, YEAH? DOES HE HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE?
WE MAY BE JUST A WEEKEND BAND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULD SETTLE FOR SOMEONE THAT CAN'T PLAY AS WELL AS WE DO!
HE SAID HE USED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL. HE'S PLAYED WITH SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE.
SO HE'S WAY BETTER THAN US? THAT'S NOT GOOD...
22
22


THAT'S THE GUY WHO WANTS TO PLAY LEAD GUITAR FOR US?
MAN, I'M NOT THE COOLEST GUY AROUND, BUT THAT DUDE LOOKS SQUARE!
TIDYLeBeau
LOOK, LET'S JUST HEAR HIM! WE DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE ANYTHING NOW!
OK! I'M READY!
7/26
HE'S IN.
YOU WANNA HEAR ANOTHER?

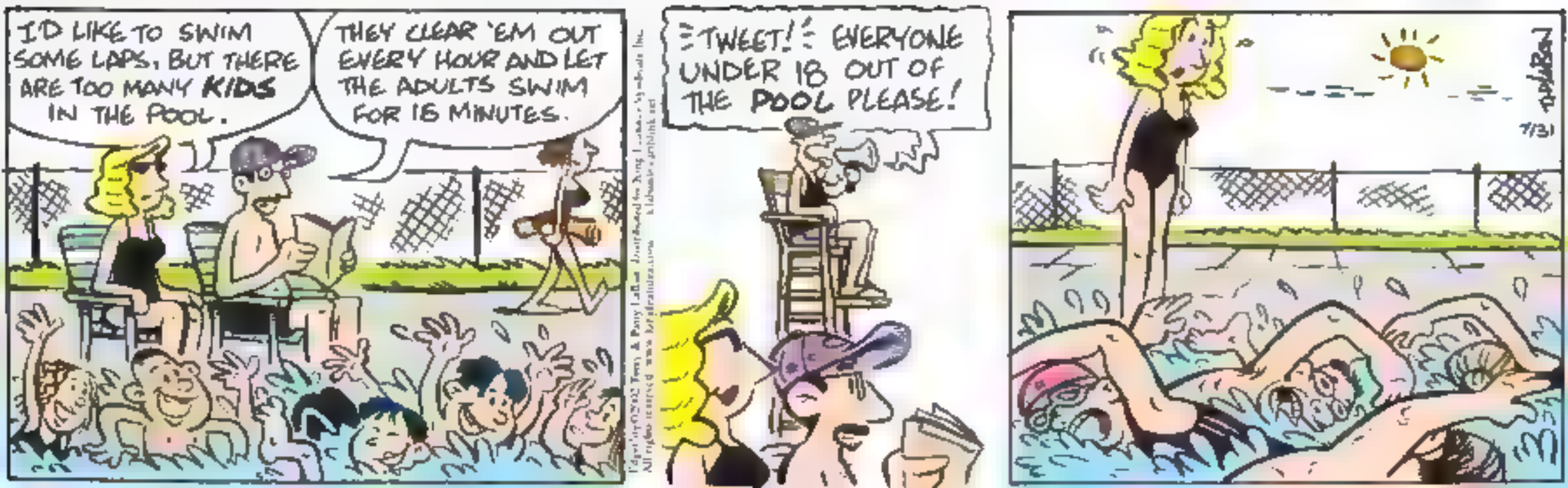

GOSH, CLYDE-- WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO PLAY GUITAR SO WELL?
I WAS A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN FOR A LONG TIME.
I PLAYED IN A BUNCH OF BANDS, TOURED ALL THE TIME, PARTIED -- HAD A PRETTY WILD TIME!
THEN MY WIFE GOT PREGNANT AND I NEEDED A BETTER JOB. NOW I'VE GOT 2 KIDS AND SELL INSURANCE IN THE SUBURBS.
WOW. DO YOU EVER GET DEPRESSED?
ABOUT ALL THE YEARS I WASTED TRYING TO BE A ROCK STAR? SOMETIMES.
7/27

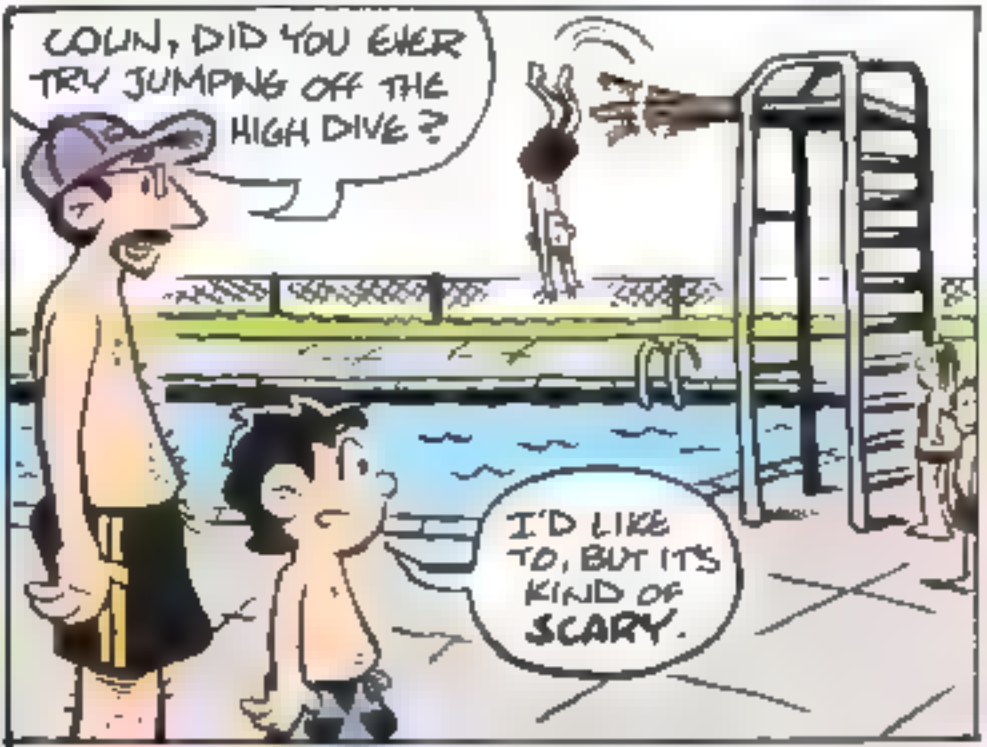

WOW--FEES AT THE POOL HAVE REALLY GONE UP THIS YEAR!
POOL
RESIDENTS.....
NONRESIDENTS....
DAY.....
STAFF
7/19
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU PUT IN A BIGGER WATERSLIDE?
YEAH, THERE'S THAT.
STAFF
BUT WE ALSO UPGRADED OUR WORKSTATIONS.
TOPLAREN


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW WATER SLIDE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
7/30

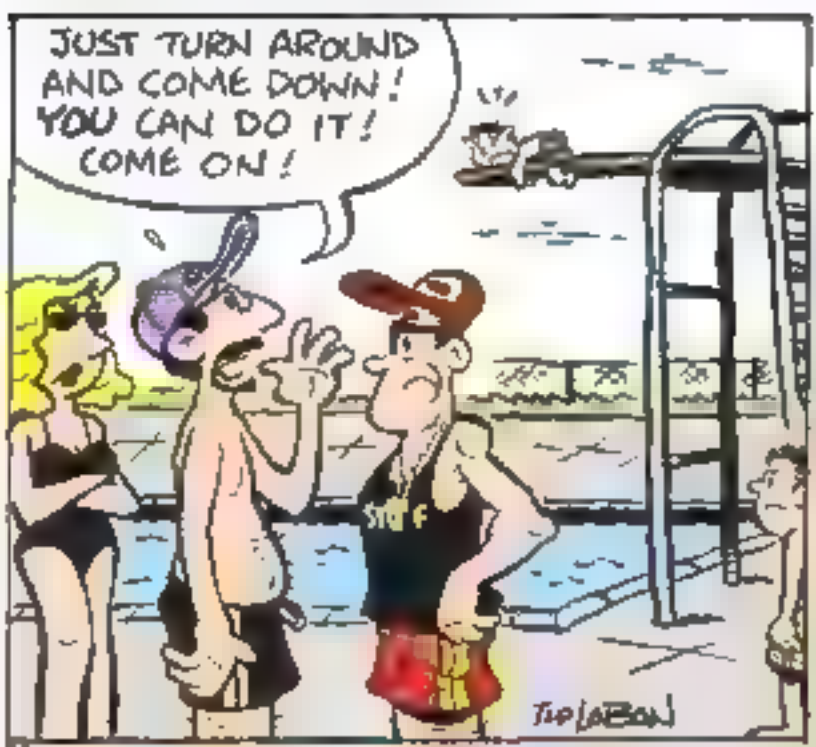

WHAT'S WRONG? ALL LAST SUMMER YOU COMPLAINED THE NEXT TOWN OVER HAD A WATER SLIDE AND WE DIDN'T!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR?

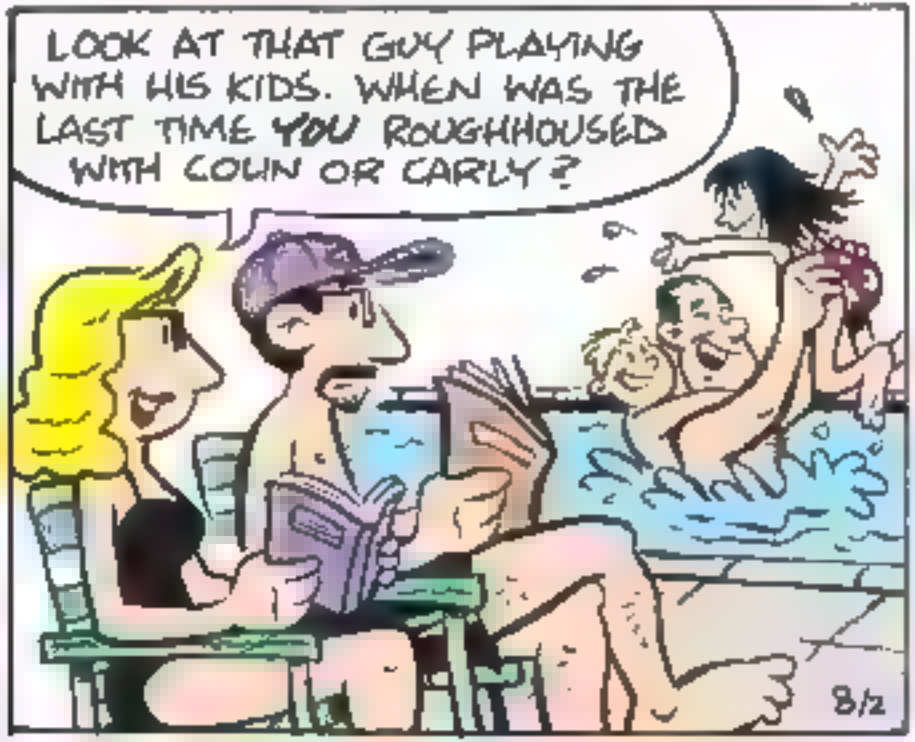
THIS YEAR THEY ADDED A WAVE POOL!


I'D LIKE TO SWIM SOME LAPS, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY KIDS IN THE POOL.
THEY CLEAR 'EM OUT EVERY HOUR AND LET THE ADULTS SWIM FOR 15 MINUTES.
TWEET! EVERYONE UNDER 18 OUT OF THE POOL PLEASE!
7/31

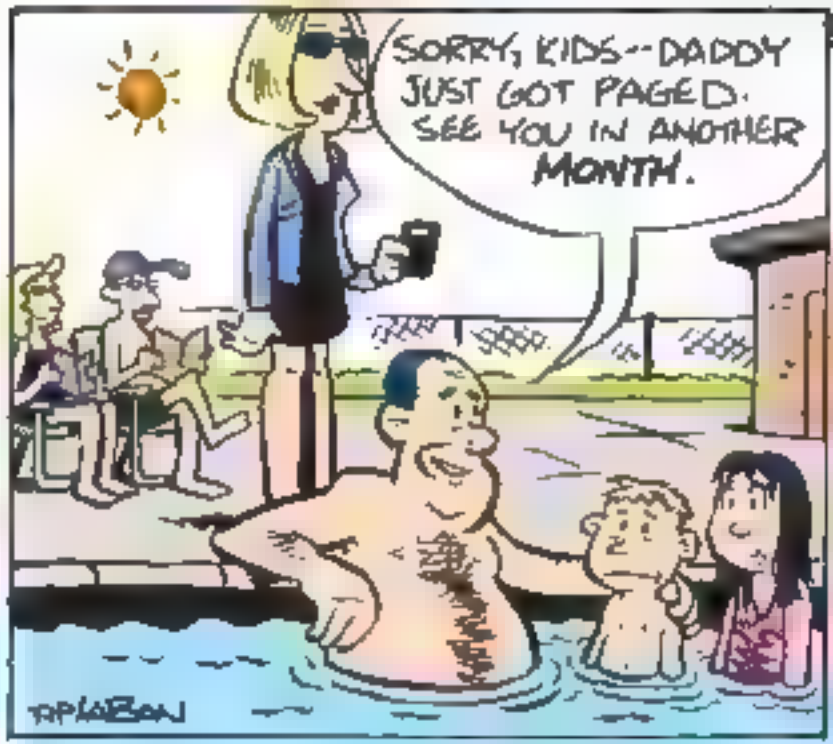

COLIN, DID YOU EVER TRY JUMPING OFF THE HIGH DIVE?
I'D LIKE TO, BUT IT'S KIND OF SCARY.

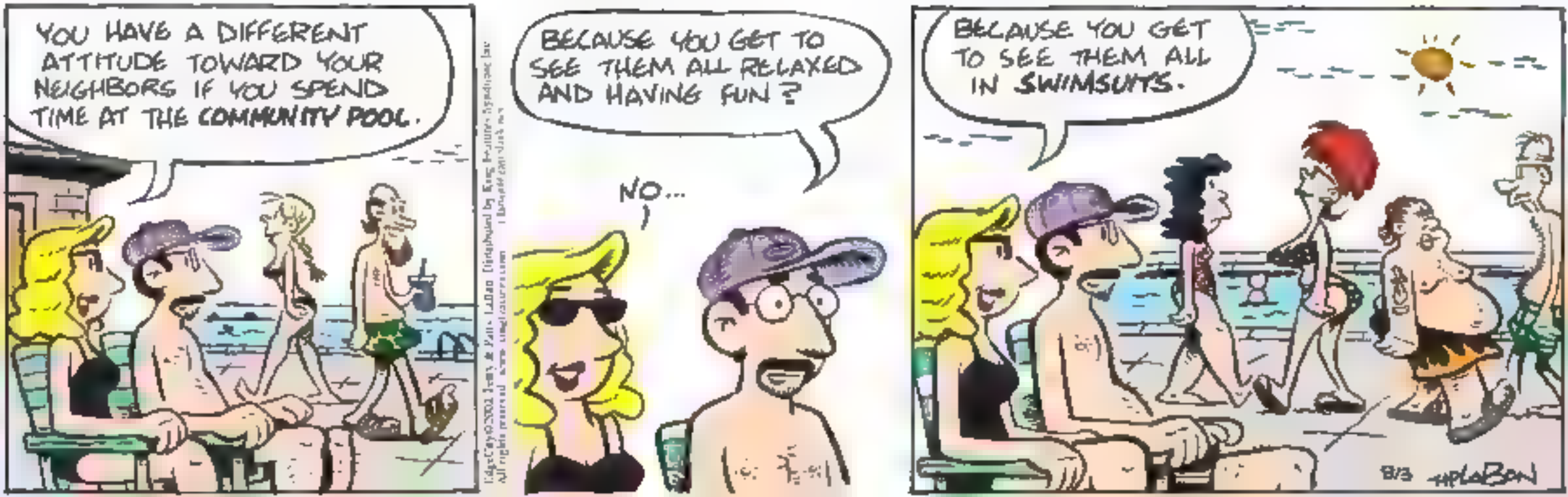
YOU CAN DO IT, SON! GO ON UP THERE! COME ON!
8/1

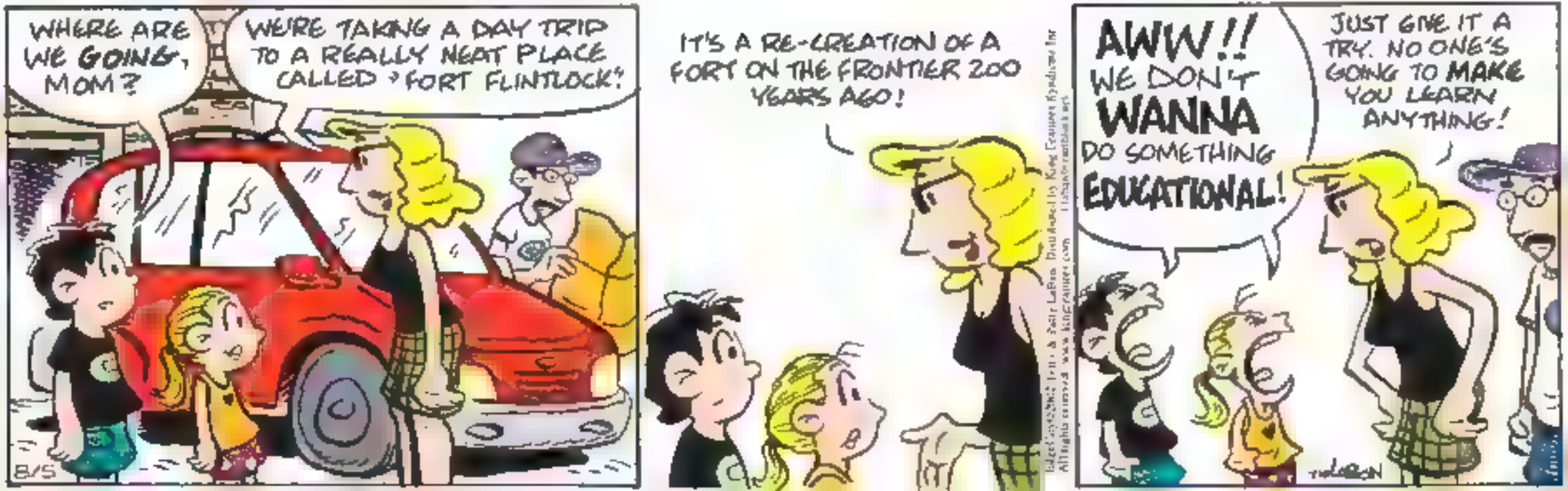

JUST TURN AROUND AND COME DOWN! YOU CAN DO IT! COME ON!
STAFF
TIM LABON


LOOK AT THAT GUY PLAYING WITH HIS KIDS. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ROUGHHOUSED WITH COLIN OR CARLY?
8/2

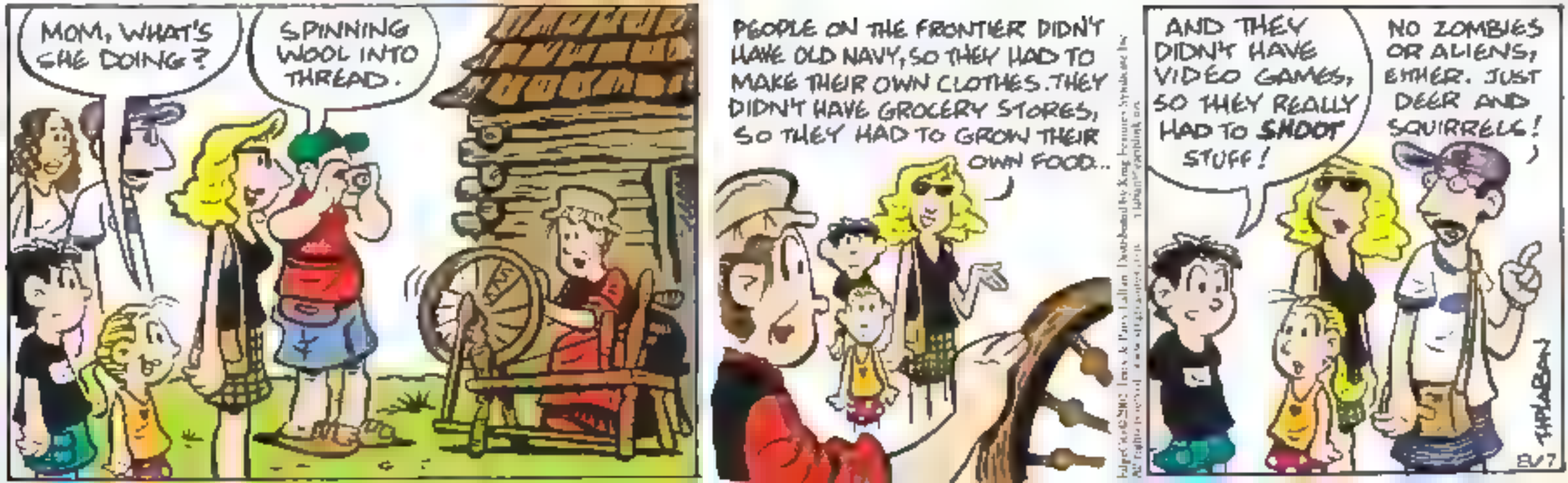
WHAT CAN I SAY? MAYBE I'M MISSING MY CHANCE TO BE "SUPERDAD," BUT I JUST WANT TO RELAX.


SORRY, KIDS--DADDY JUST GOT PAGED. SEE YOU IN ANOTHER MONTH.

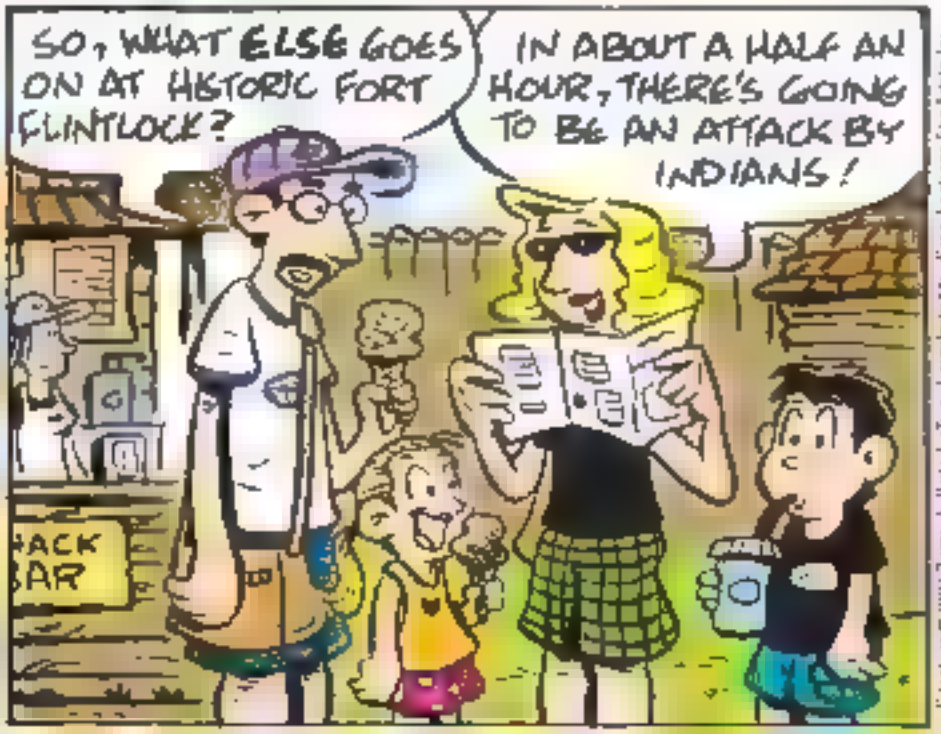

YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR NEIGHBORS IF YOU SPEND TIME AT THE COMMUNITY POOL.
BECAUSE YOU GET TO SEE THEM ALL RELAXED AND HAVING FUN?
NO...
BECAUSE YOU GET TO SEE THEM ALL IN SWIMSUITS.
8/3

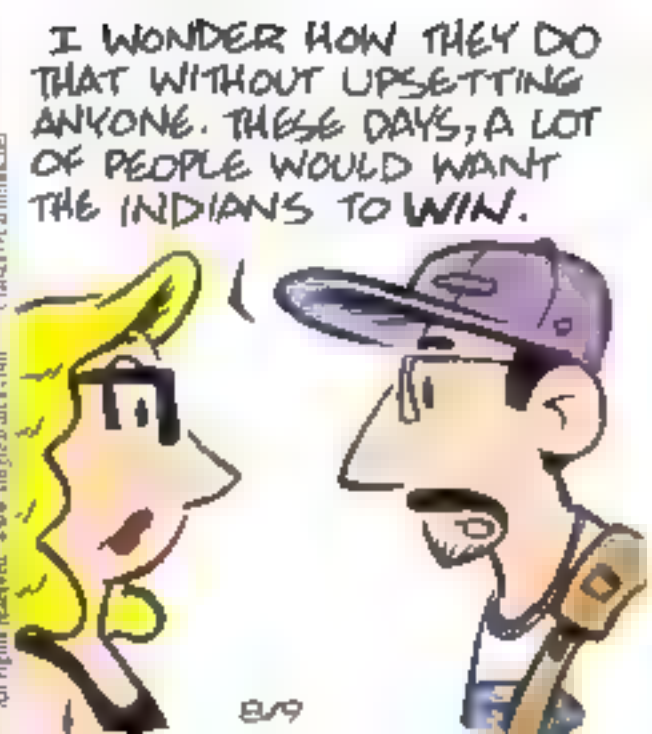

WHERE ARE WE GOING, MOM?
WE'RE TAKING A DAY TRIP TO A REALLY NEAT PLACE CALLED "FORT FLINTLOCK"!
IT'S A RE-CREATION OF A FORT ON THE FRONTIER 200 YEARS AGO!
AWW!! WE DON'T WANNA DO SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL!
JUST GIVE IT A TRY. NO ONE'S GOING TO MAKE YOU LEARN ANYTHING!

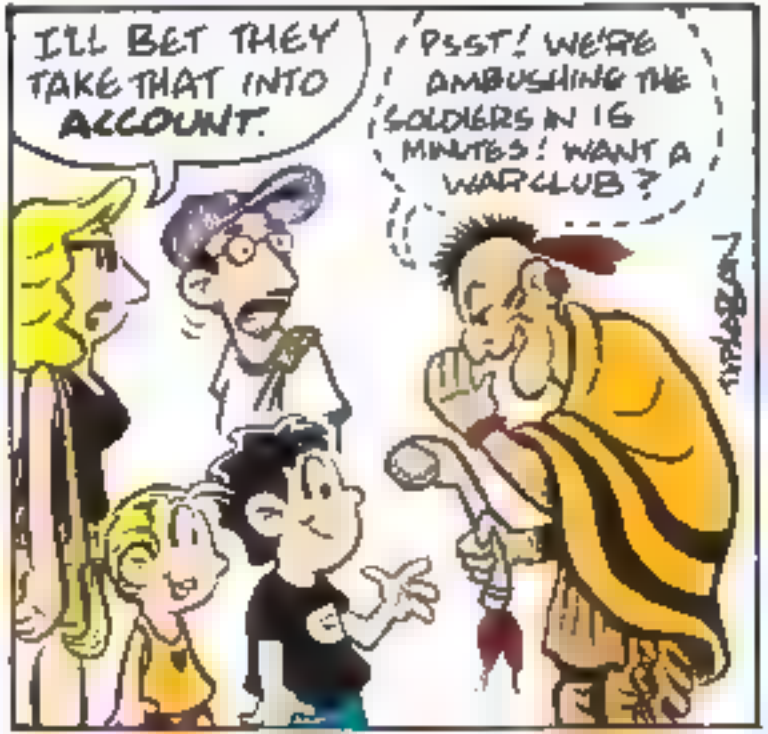
WOW, CHECK THIS PLACE OUT!
IT SAYS "FORT FLINTLOCK IS AN AUTHENTIC RE-CREATION OF A FRONTIER FORT CIRCA 1800..."
"HERE VISITORS CAN RELIVE A TIME WHEN PIONEERS LEFT CIVILIZATION FOR NEW LIVES IN A WILDERNESS, WILD AND FREE!"
FORT
"LITTERING, SMOKING AND PETS ARE PROHIBITED."
"EXCUSE ME... DID YOU FOLKS GO THROUGH THE METAL DETECTOR?"

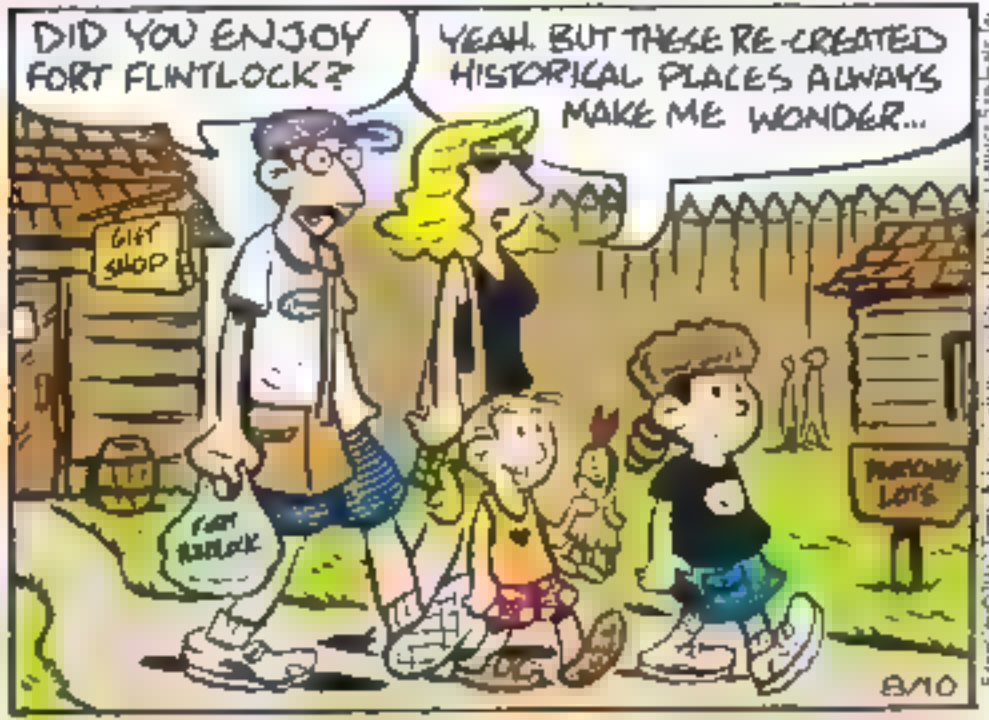

MOM, WHAT'S SHE DOING?
SPINNING WOOL INTO THREAD.
PEOPLE ON THE FRONTIER DIDN'T HAVE OLD NAVY, SO THEY HAD TO MAKE THEIR OWN CLOTHES. THEY DIDN'T HAVE GROCERY STORES, SO THEY HAD TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD...
AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE VIDEO GAMES, SO THEY REALLY HAD TO SHOOT STUFF!
NO ZOMBIES OR ALIENS, EITHER. JUST DEER AND SQUIRRELS!
THABAN
8/7

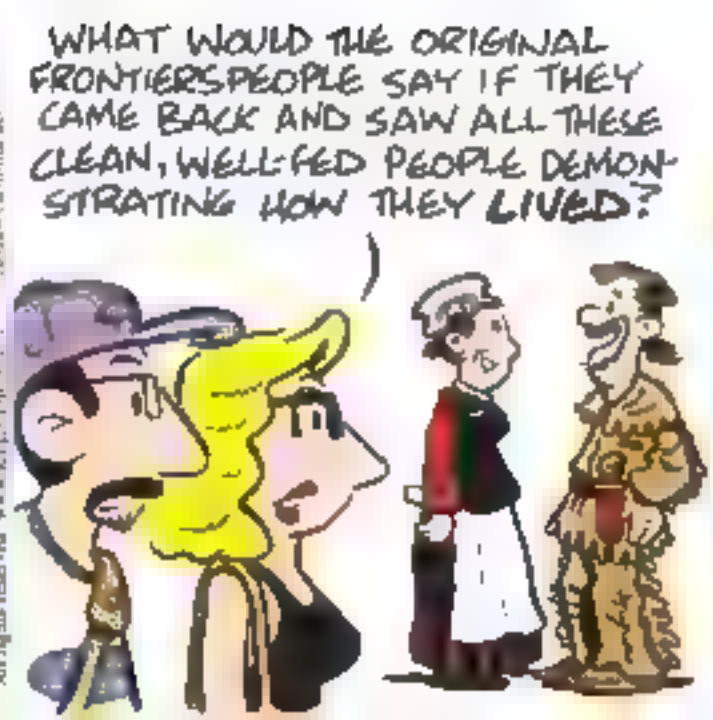
WOW, CHECK OUT THE GUYS PLAYING FIDDLE MUSIC! THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD!
I'LL BET THIS MUSIC SOUNDS JUST LIKE IT DID 200 YEARS AGO!
OF COURSE, BACK THEN, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO SELL YOU A CD.
WE'RE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR WEDDINGS AND BAR MITZVAHS!


SO, WHAT ELSE GOES ON AT HISTORIC FORT FLINTLOCK?
IN ABOUT A HALF AN HOUR, THERE'S GOING TO BE AN ATTACK BY INDIANS!
HACK BAR

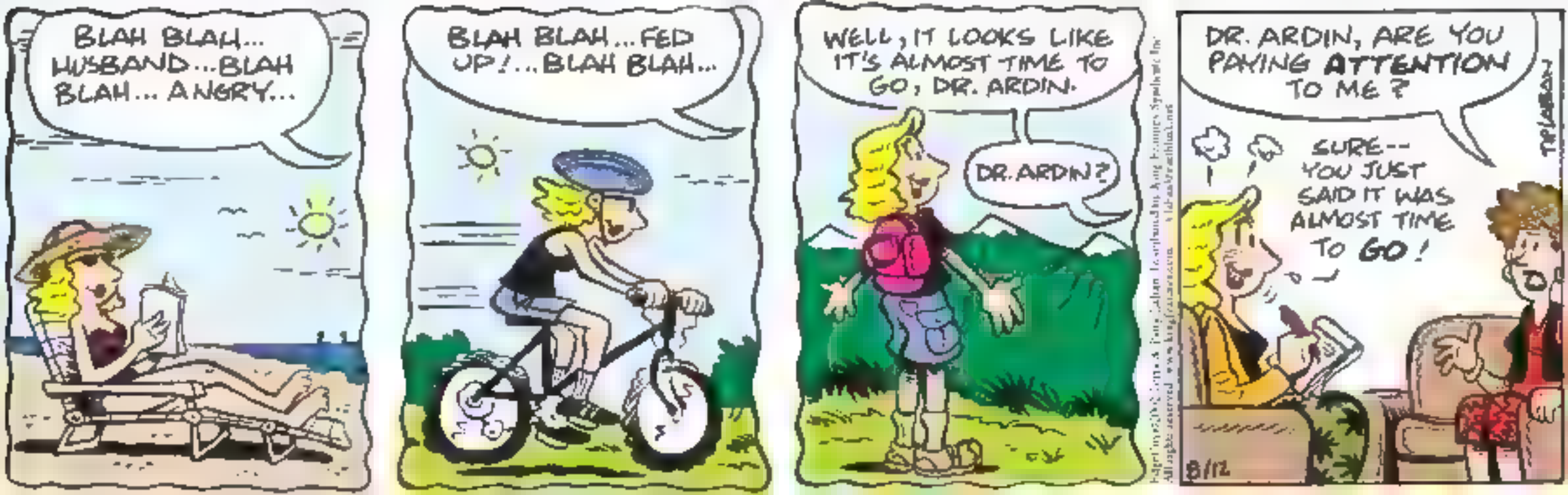

I WONDER HOW THEY DO THAT WITHOUT UPSETTING ANYONE. THESE DAYS, A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD WANT THE INDIANS TO WIN.
8/9

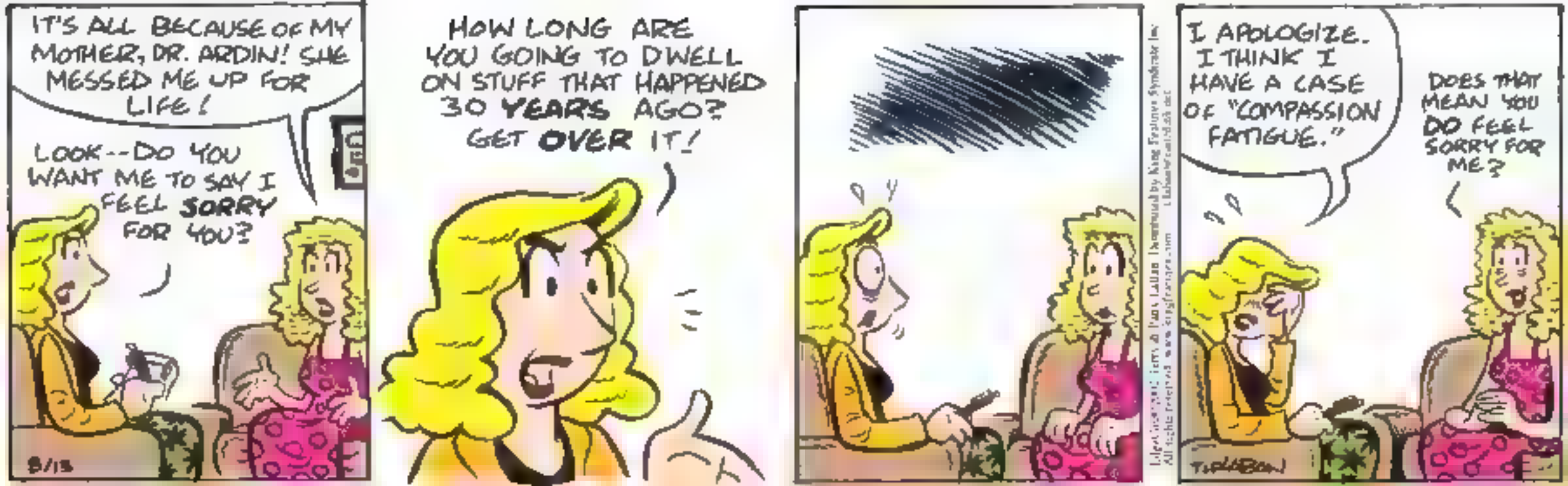

I'LL BET THEY TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT.
PSST! WE'RE AMBUSHING THE SOLDIERS IN 16 MINUTES! WANT A WARCLUB?


DID YOU ENJOY FORT FLINTLOCK?
YEAH. BUT THESE RE-CREATED HISTORICAL PLACES ALWAYS MAKE ME WONDER...
GIFT SHOP
FORT FLINTLOCK
PARKING LOTS
8/10

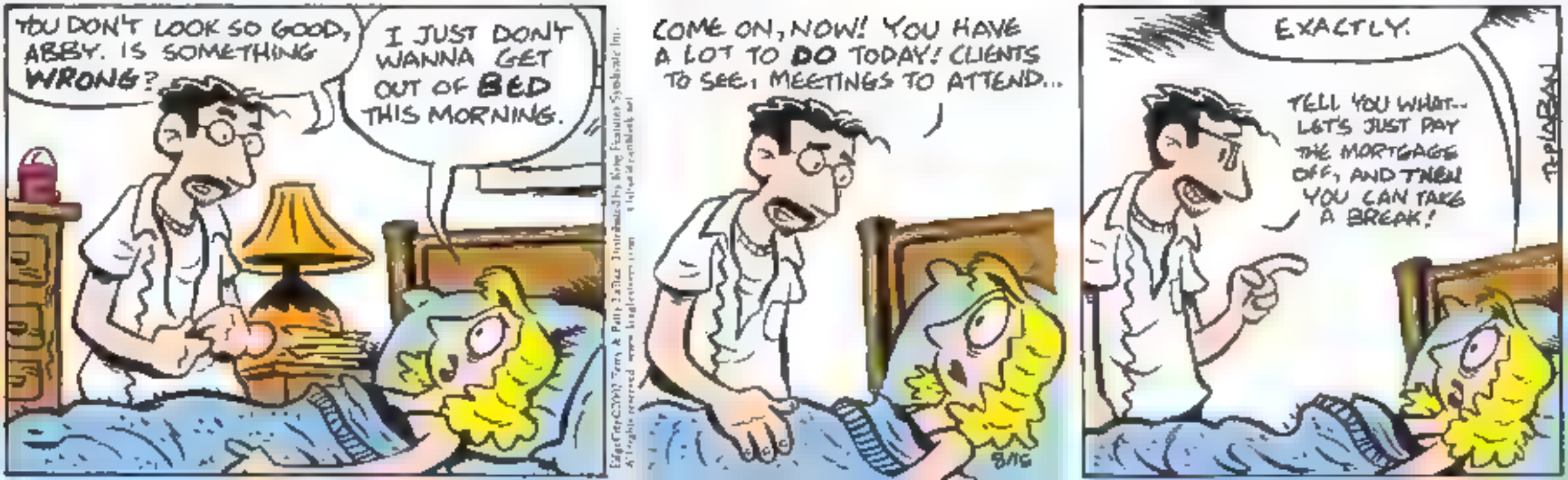

WHAT WOULD THE ORIGINAL FRONTIERSPEOPLE SAY IF THEY CAME BACK AND SAW ALL THESE CLEAN, WELL-FED PEOPLE DEMONSTRATING HOW THEY LIVED?

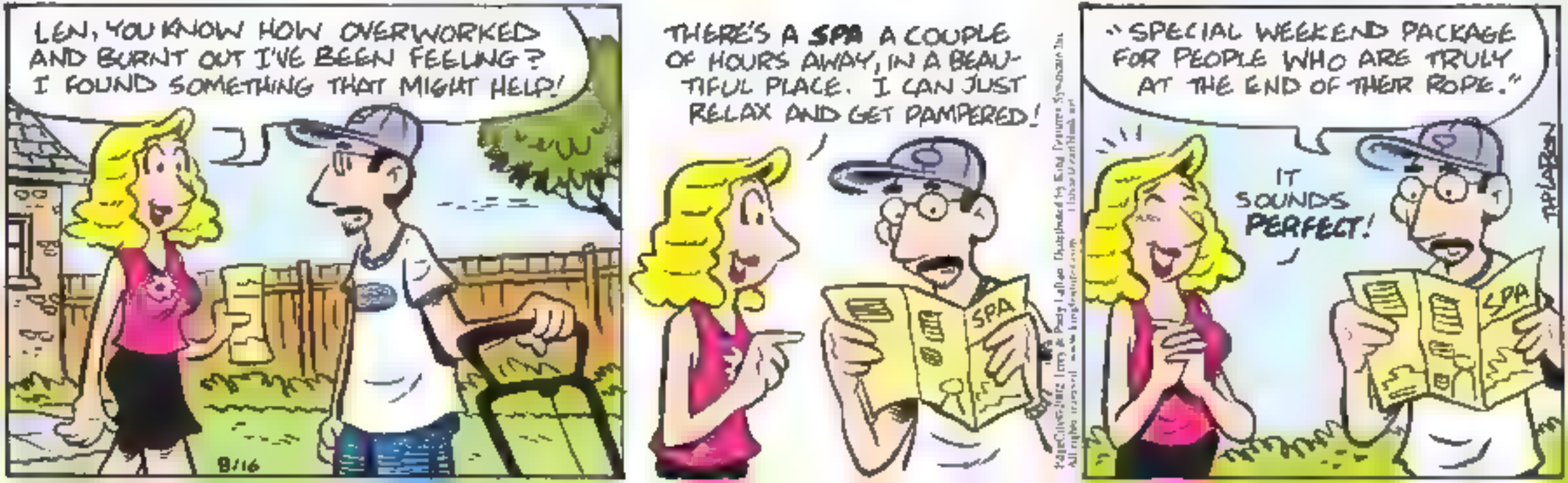
THEY'D PROBABLY ASK FOR A JOB!

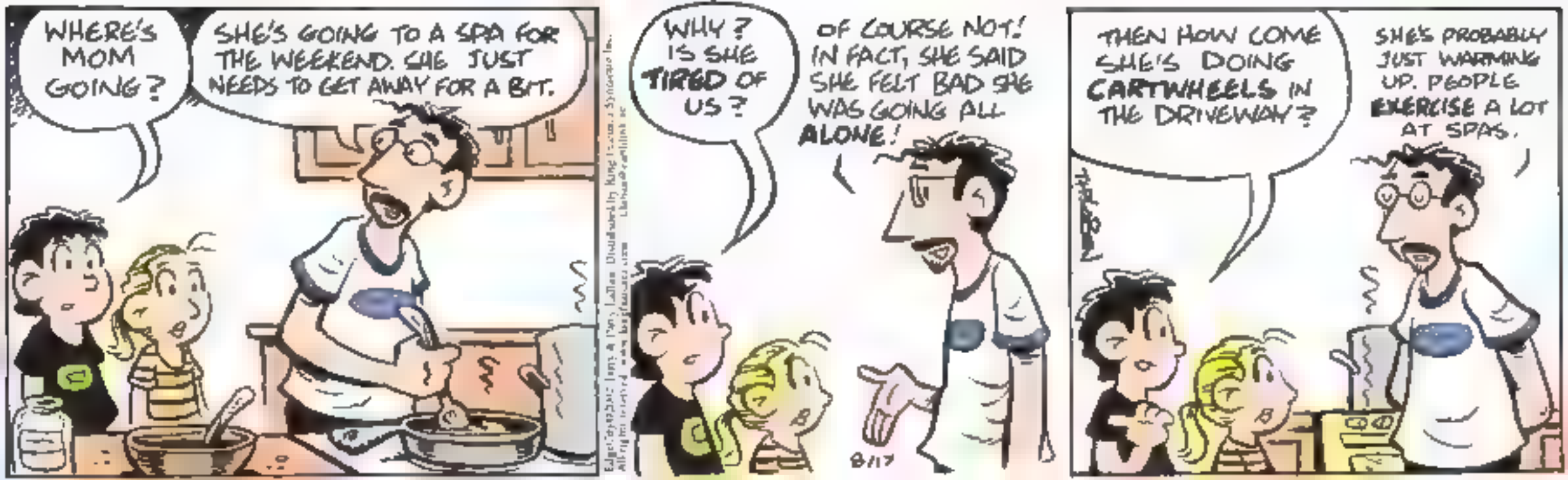

BLAH BLAH... HUSBAND...BLAH BLAH... ANGRY...
BLAH BLAH...FED UP!...BLAH BLAH...
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO, DR. ARDIN.
DR. ARDIN?
DR. ARDIN, ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION TO ME?
SURE-- YOU JUST SAID IT WAS ALMOST TIME TO GO!
TIM LARSON
8/12

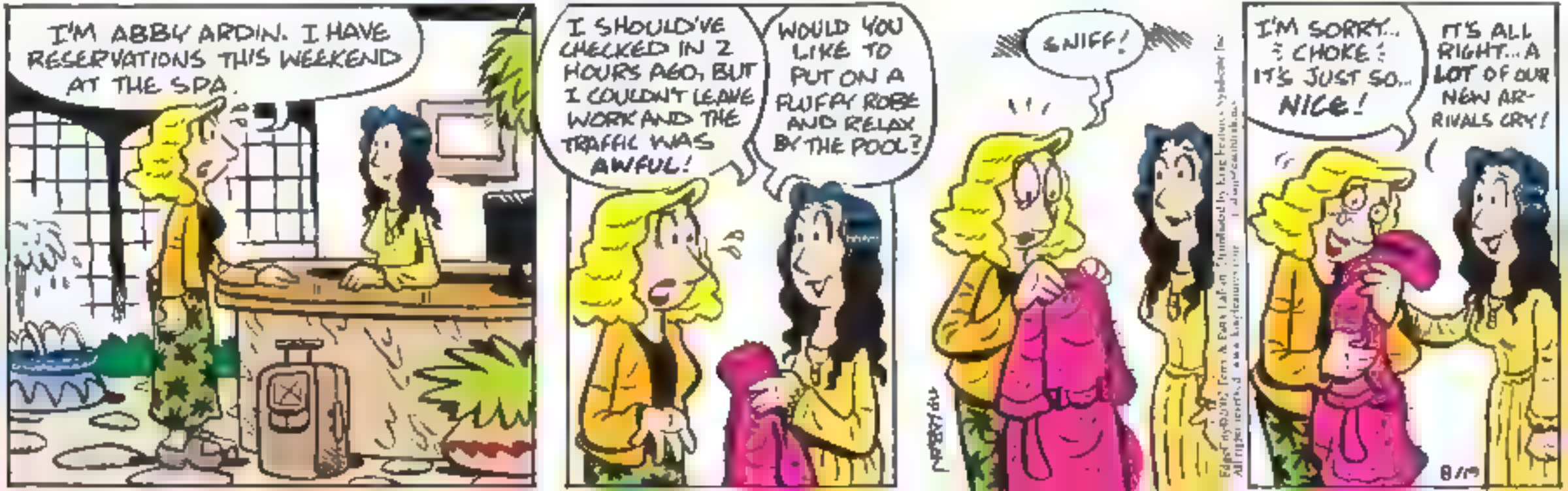

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY MOTHER, DR. ARDIN! SHE MESSED ME UP FOR LIFE!
LOOK--DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU?
8/13
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO DWELL ON STUFF THAT HAPPENED 30 YEARS AGO? GET OVER IT!
I APOLOGIZE. I THINK I HAVE A CASE OF "COMPASSION FATIGUE."
DOES THAT MEAN YOU DO FEEL SORRY FOR ME?

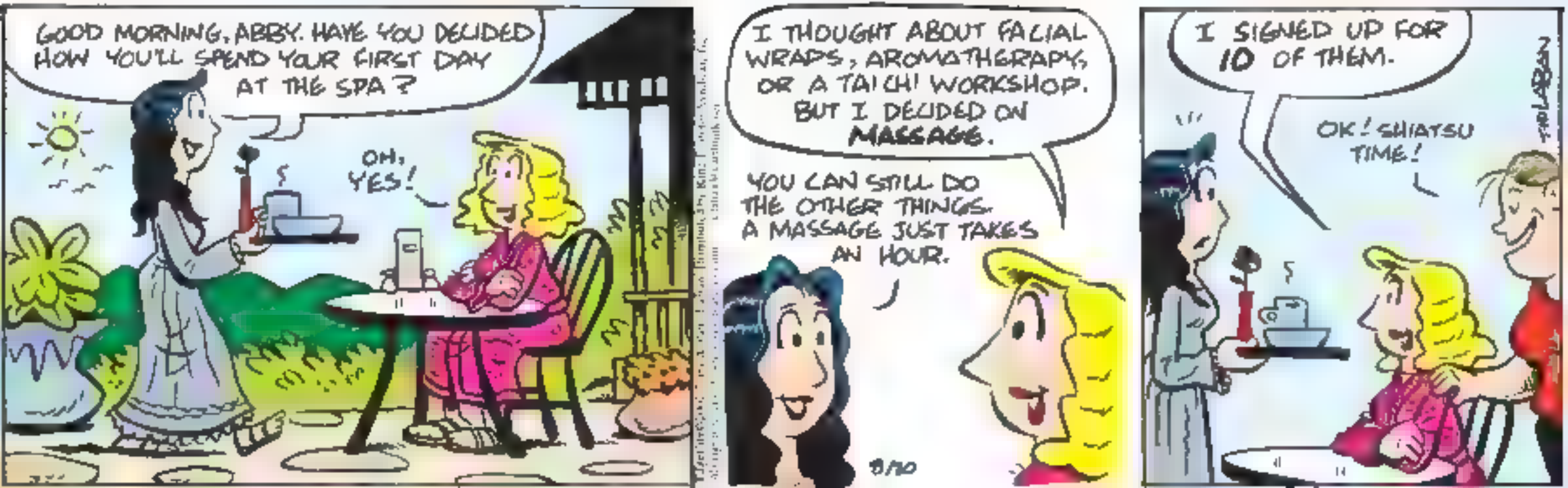
JANICE, LATELY I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE I JUST CAN'T LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS ANYMORE.
THAT'S NOT GOOD WHEN YOU'RE A THERAPIST!
DO YOU THINK IT'S A SIGN OF BURNOUT?
NOT NECESSARILY, ABBY--A LOT OF PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO WORK IN THE SUMMER...
DANG! THERE'S NOT MUCH CHICKEN IN THIS CAESAR SALAD!
SO DEAL WITH IT!!
ON THE OTHER HAND, BURNOUT IS DEFINITELY A POSSIBILITY...

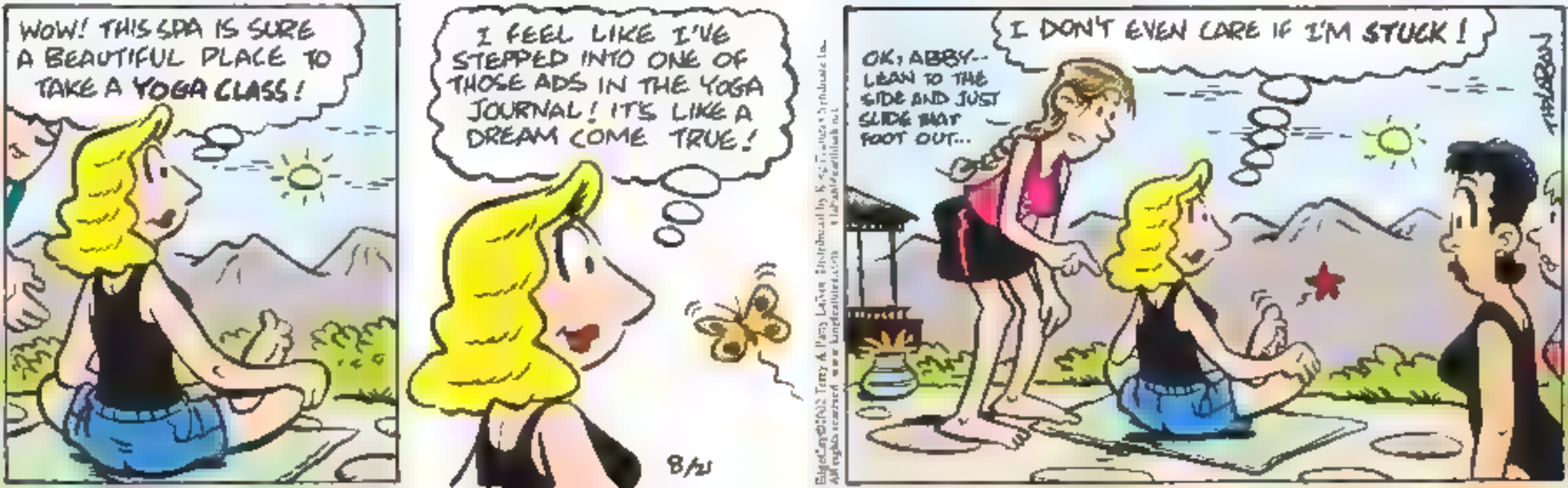

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, ABBY. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I JUST DONT WANNA GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING.
COME ON, NOW! YOU HAVE A LOT TO DO TODAY! CLIENTS TO SEE, MEETINGS TO ATTEND...
EXACTLY.
TELL YOU WHAT... LET'S JUST PAY THE MORTGAGE OFF, AND THEN YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK!

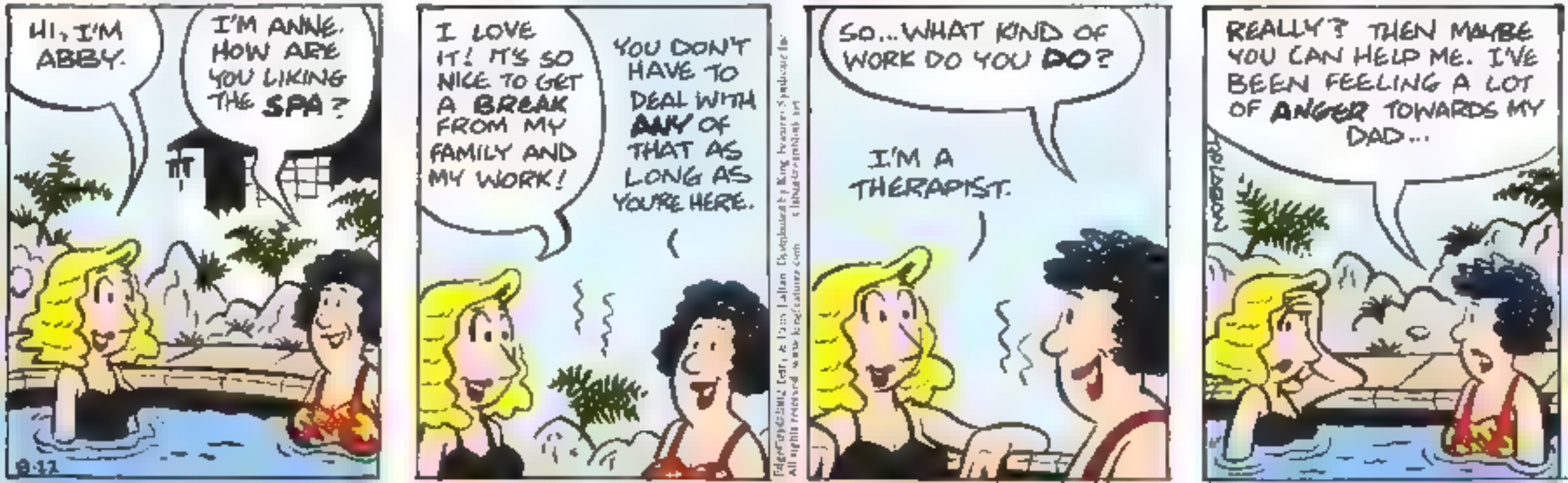

LEN, YOU KNOW HOW OVERWORKED AND BURNT OUT I'VE BEEN FEELING? I FOUND SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP!
8/16
THERE'S A SPA A COUPLE OF HOURS AWAY, IN A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. I CAN JUST RELAX AND GET PAMPERED!
SPA
"SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE TRULY AT THE END OF THEIR ROPE."
IT SOUNDS PERFECT!
SPA

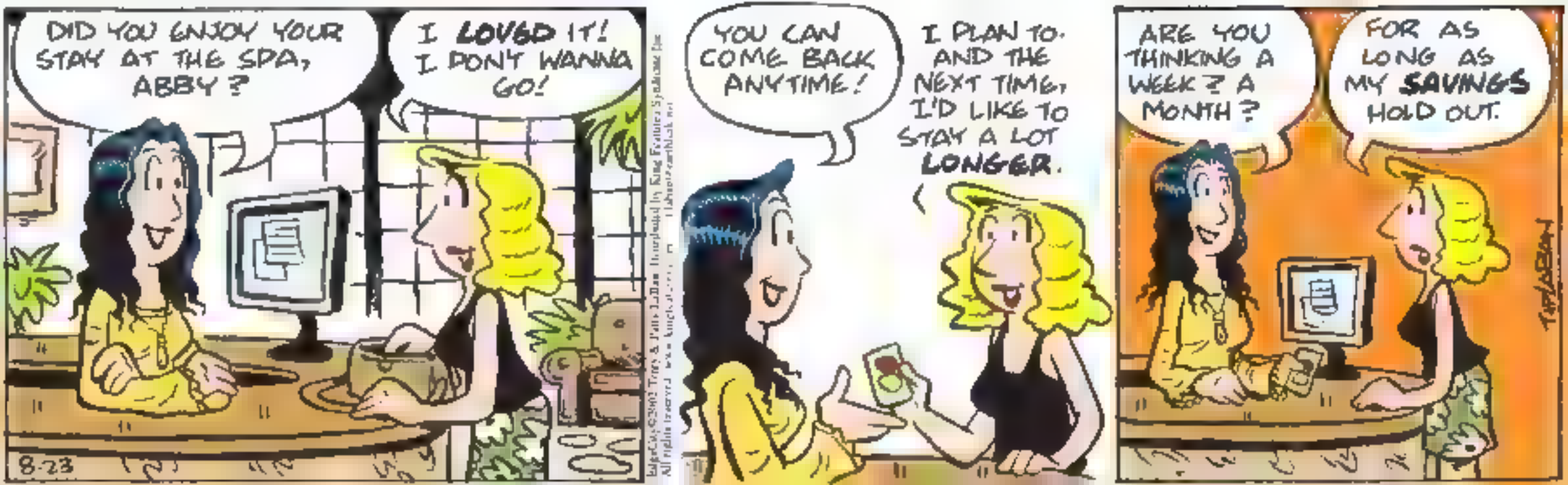

WHERE'S MOM GOING?
SHE'S GOING TO A SPA FOR THE WEEKEND. SHE JUST NEEDS TO GET AWAY FOR A BIT.
WHY? IS SHE TIRED OF US?
OF COURSE NOT! IN FACT, SHE SAID SHE FELT BAD SHE WAS GOING ALL ALONE!
8/17
THEN HOW COME SHE'S DOING CARTWHEELS IN THE DRIVEWAY?
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST WARMING UP. PEOPLE EXERCISE A LOT AT SPAS.

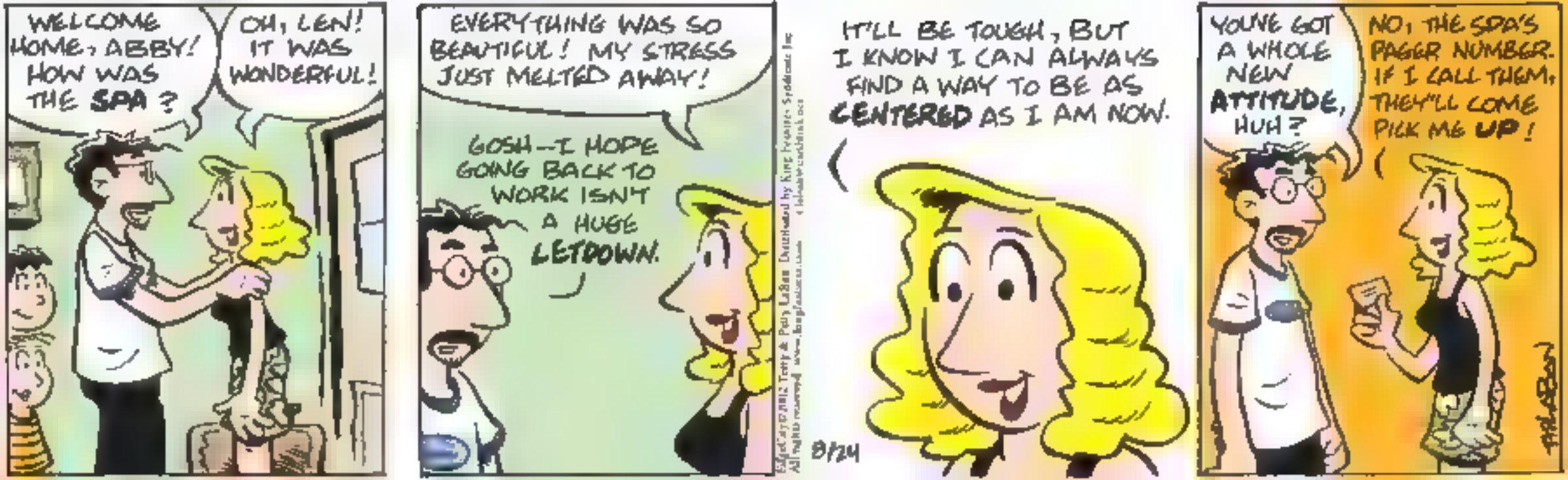

I'M ABBY ARDIN. I HAVE RESERVATIONS THIS WEEKEND AT THE SPA.
I SHOULD'VE CHECKED IN 2 HOURS AGO, BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE WORK AND THE TRAFFIC WAS AWFUL!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT ON A FLUFFY ROBE AND RELAX BY THE POOL?
SNIFF!
I'M SORRY... CHOKE! IT'S JUST SO... NICE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT... A LOT OF OUR NEW ARRIVALS CRY!

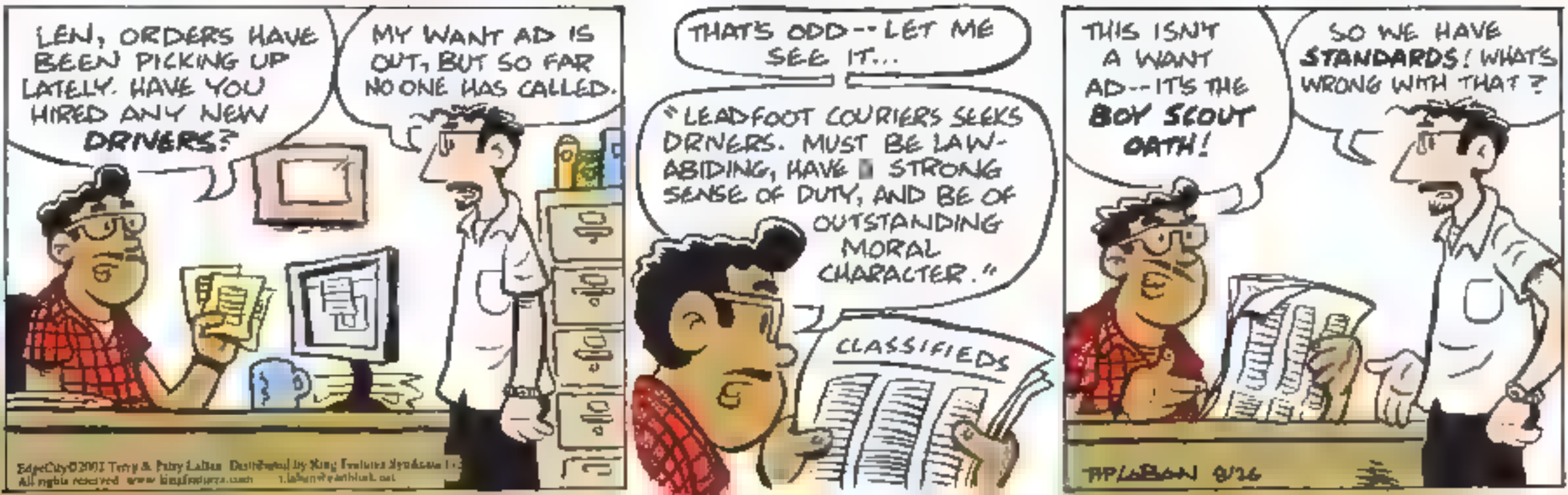

GOOD MORNING, ABBY. HAVE YOU DECIDED HOW YOU'LL SPEND YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE SPA?
OH, YES!
I THOUGHT ABOUT FACIAL WRAPS, AROMATHERAPY, OR A TAI CHI WORKSHOP. BUT I DECIDED ON MASSAGE.
YOU CAN STILL DO THE OTHER THINGS. A MASSAGE JUST TAKES AN HOUR.
I SIGNED UP FOR 10 OF THEM.
OK! SHIATSU TIME!

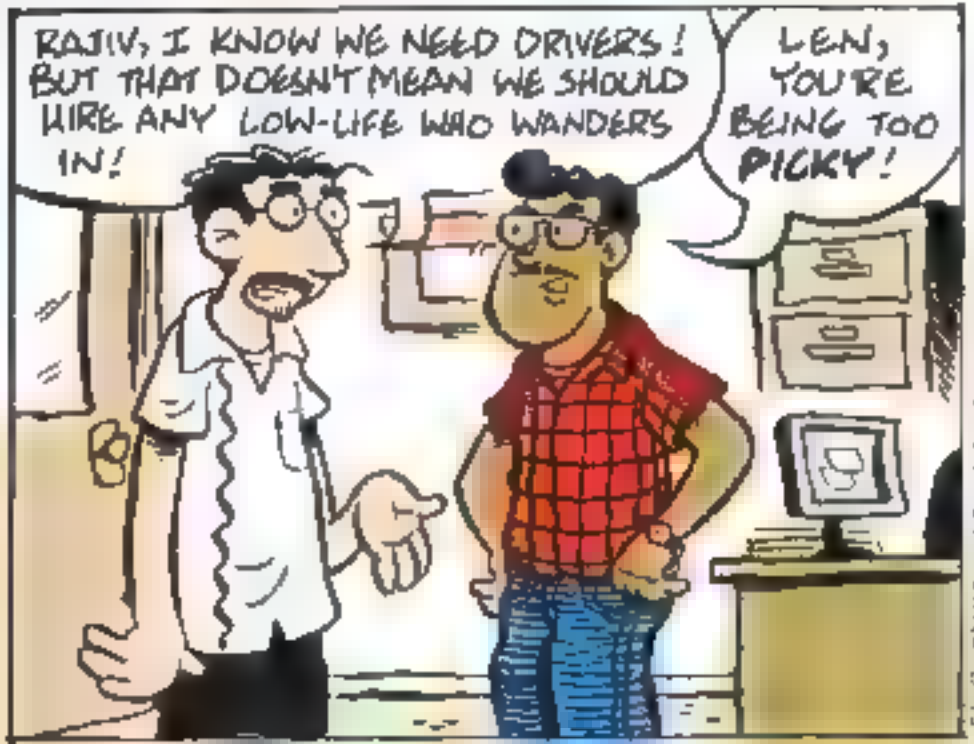

WOW! THIS SPA IS SURE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO TAKE A YOGA CLASS!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE STEPPED INTO ONE OF THOSE ADS IN THE YOGA JOURNAL! IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
8/21
OK, ABBY-- LEAN TO THE SIDE AND JUST SLIDE THAT FOOT OUT...
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF I'M STUCK!


HI, I'M ABBY.
I'M ANNE. HOW ARE YOU LIKING THE SPA?
I LOVE IT! IT'S SO NICE TO GET A BREAK FROM MY FAMILY AND MY WORK!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE.
SO...WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO?
I'M A THERAPIST.
REALLY? THEN MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME. I'VE BEEN FEELING A LOT OF ANGER TOWARDS MY DAD...

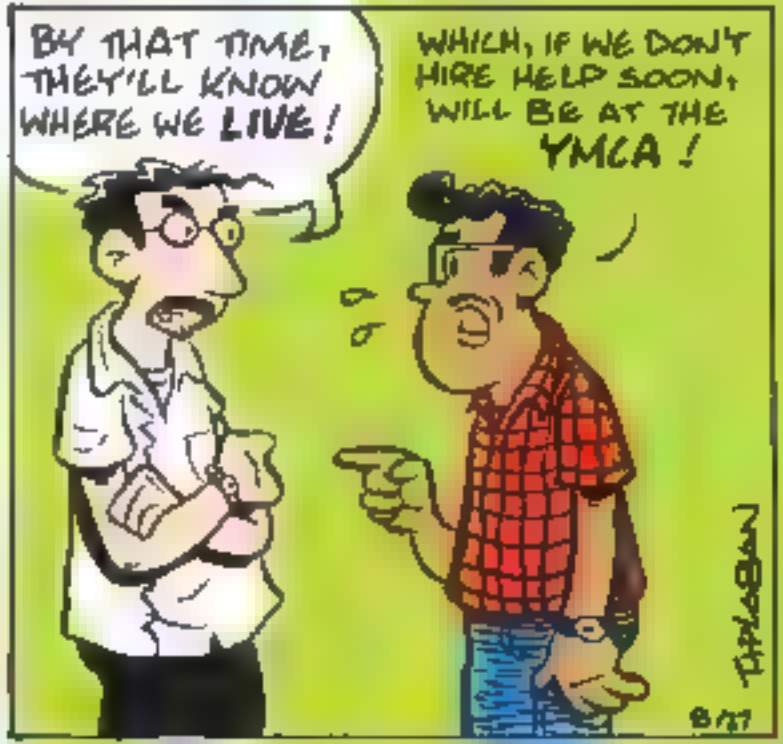

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY AT THE SPA, ABBY?
I LOVED IT! I DON'T WANNA GO!
8-23
YOU CAN COME BACK ANYTIME!
I PLAN TO. AND THE NEXT TIME, I'D LIKE TO STAY A LOT LONGER.
ARE YOU THINKING A WEEK? A MONTH?
FOR AS LONG AS MY SAVINGS HOLD OUT.


WELCOME HOME, ABBY! HOW WAS THE SPA?
OH, LEN! IT WAS WONDERFUL!
EVERYTHING WAS SO BEAUTIFUL! MY STRESS JUST MELTED AWAY!
GOSH—I HOPE GOING BACK TO WORK ISN'T A HUGE LETDOWN.
IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT I KNOW I CAN ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO BE AS CENTERED AS I AM NOW.
8/24
YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW ATTITUDE, HUH?
NO, THE SPA'S PAGER NUMBER. IF I CALL THEM, THEY'LL COME PICK ME UP!

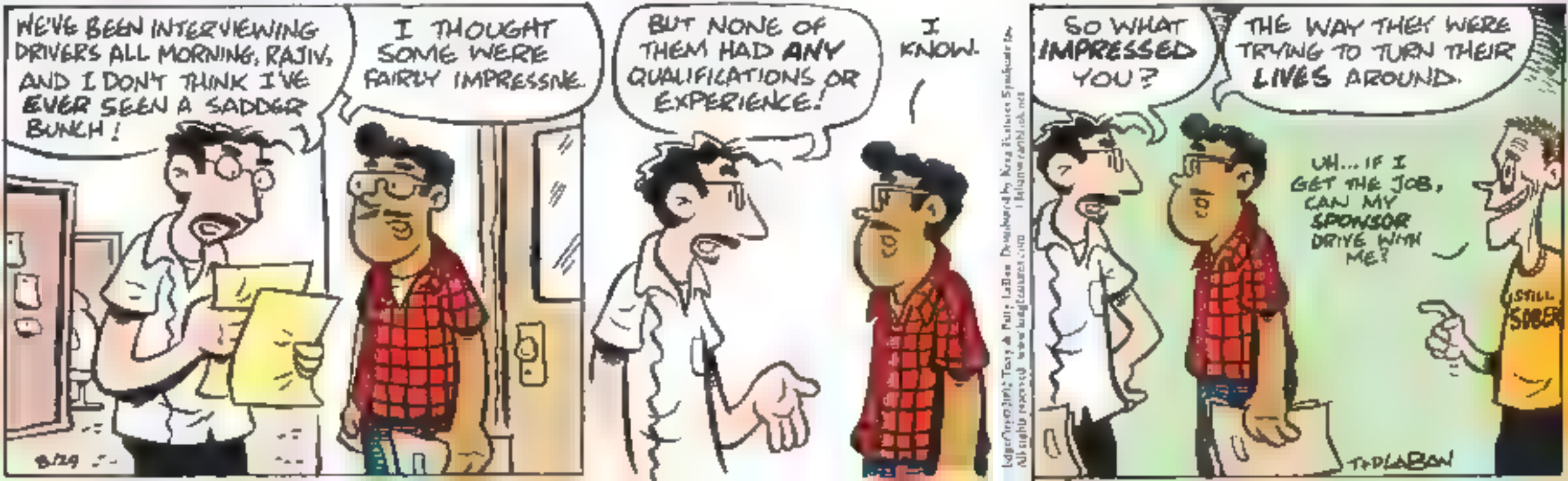

LEN, ORDERS HAVE BEEN PICKING UP LATELY. HAVE YOU HIRED ANY NEW DRIVERS?
MY WANT AD IS OUT, BUT SO FAR NO ONE HAS CALLED.
THAT'S ODD -- LET ME SEE IT...
"LEADFOOT COURIERS SEEKS DRIVERS. MUST BE LAW-ABIDING, HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF DUTY, AND BE OF OUTSTANDING MORAL CHARACTER."
CLASSIFIEDS
THIS ISN'T A WANT AD -- IT'S THE BOY SCOUT OATH!
SO WE HAVE STANDARDS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
TRP/LABAN 8/26

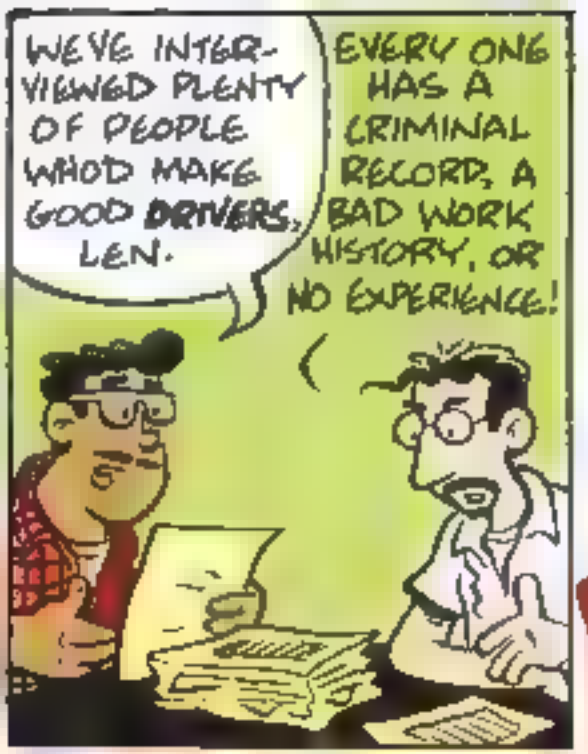

RAJIV, I KNOW WE NEED DRIVERS! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULD HIRE ANY LOW-LIFE WHO WANDERS IN!
LEN, YOU'RE BEING TOO PICKY!

SO WHAT IF SOMEONE'S HAD SOME TROUBLE IN THE PAST? GIVE 'EM A CHANCE! WE CAN ALWAYS FIRE THEM!


BY THAT TIME, THEY'LL KNOW WHERE WE LIVE!
WHICH, IF WE DON'T HIRE HELP SOON, WILL BE AT THE YMCA!
THAVEN
8/27

WELL, MR. COOPER... WE'RE DEFINITELY LOOKING FOR COURIERS RIGHT NOW. LET'S SEE-- YOU WERE ARRESTED IN 1989 FOR ASSAULT AND IN 1996 FOR BURGLARY...
YOU'VE ALSO BEEN CHARGED WITH DRUNKEN DRIVING, CAR THEFT AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT!?
FRANKLY, I FIND THIS RESUME A LITTLE QUESTIONABLE!
OK, I ADMIT IT-- I LEFT A FEW THINGS OUT!

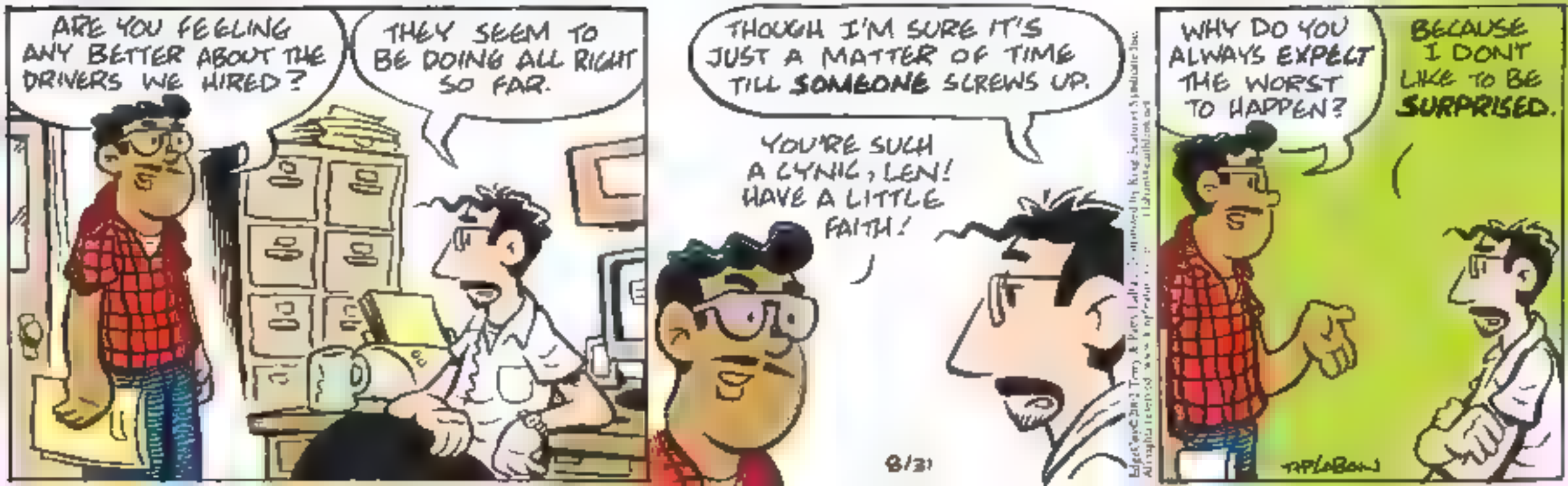

WE'VE BEEN INTERVIEWING DRIVERS ALL MORNING, RAJIV, AND I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A SADDER BUNCH!
I THOUGHT SOME WERE FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE.
BUT NONE OF THEM HAD ANY QUALIFICATIONS OR EXPERIENCE!
I KNOW.
SO WHAT IMPRESSED YOU?
THE WAY THEY WERE TRYING TO TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND.
UH... IF I GET THE JOB, CAN MY SPONSOR DRIVE WITH ME?
STILL SOBER
TODLABON

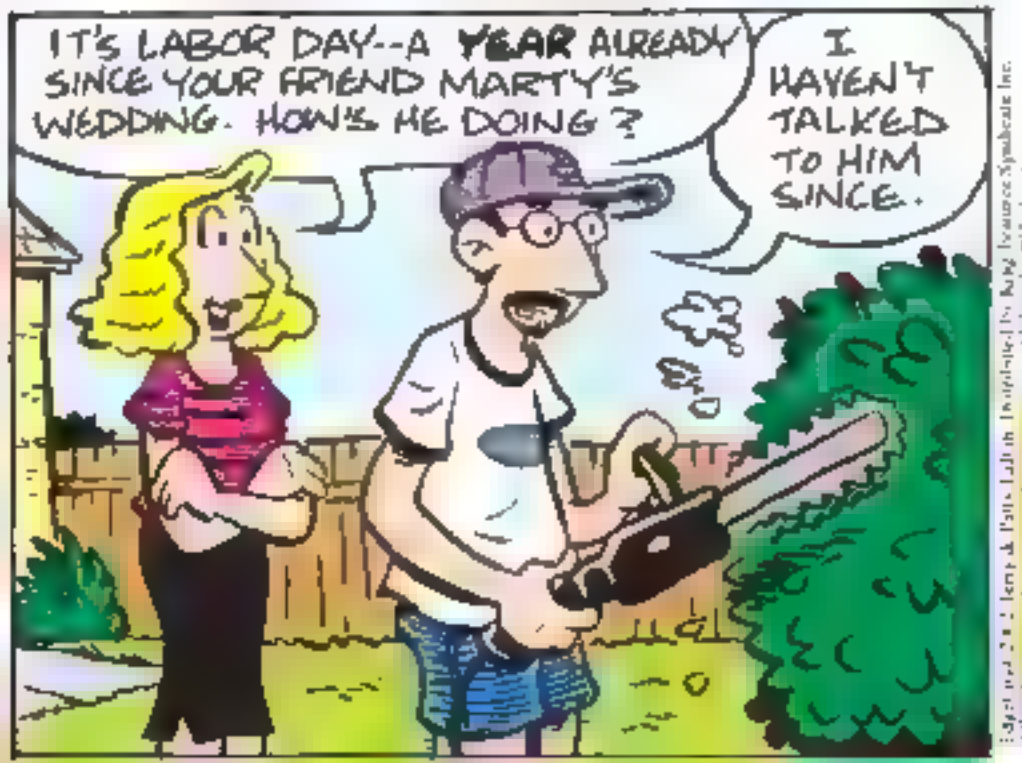

WE'VE INTERVIEWED PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHOD MAKE GOOD DRIVERS, LEN.
EVERY ONE HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD, A BAD WORK HISTORY, OR NO EXPERIENCE!

YOU'RE NOT BEING REASONABLE!
I JUST WANT TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO'S QUALIFIED, THAT'S ALL!

HOW ABOUT THIS GUY? HE HAS A COLLEGE DEGREE, A SPOTLESS RECORD AND PLENTY OF REFERENCES!
EEH... I DON'T KNOW...

WHAT'S WRONG NOW?
IF HE'S SO ON THE BALL, WHY DOESN'T HE GET A BETTER JOB?

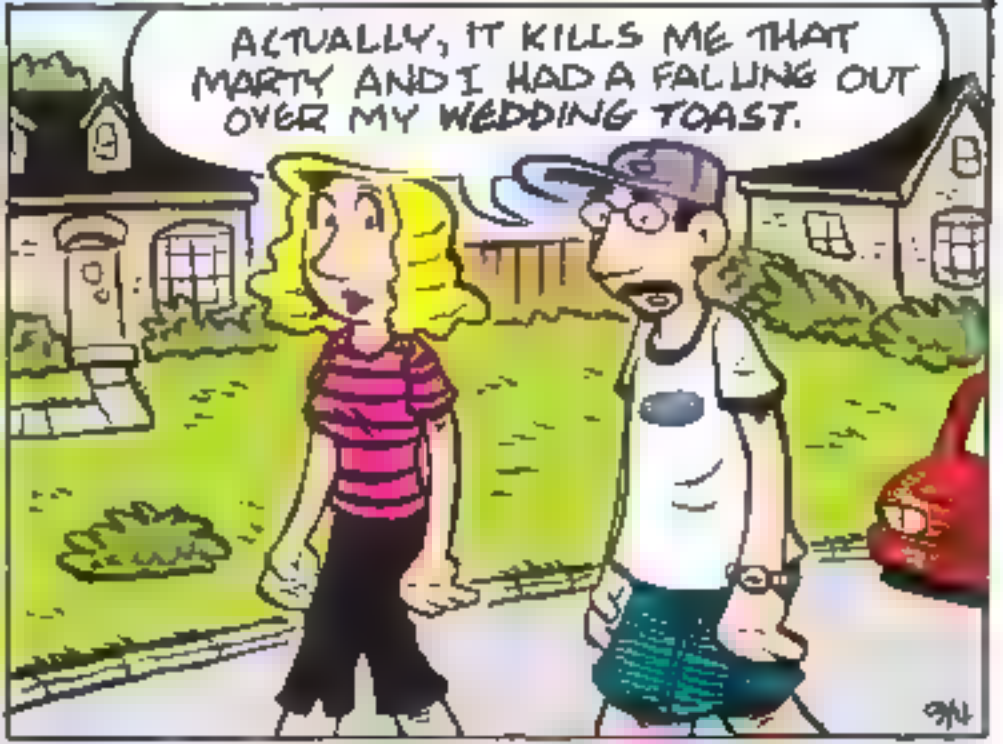

ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER ABOUT THE DRIVERS WE HIRED?
THEY SEEM TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT SO FAR.
THOUGH I'M SURE IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME TILL SOMEONE SCREWS UP.
YOU'RE SUCH A CYNIC, LEN! HAVE A LITTLE FAITH!
8/31
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS EXPECT THE WORST TO HAPPEN?
BECAUSE I DONT LIKE TO BE SURPRISED.
TAPLABON

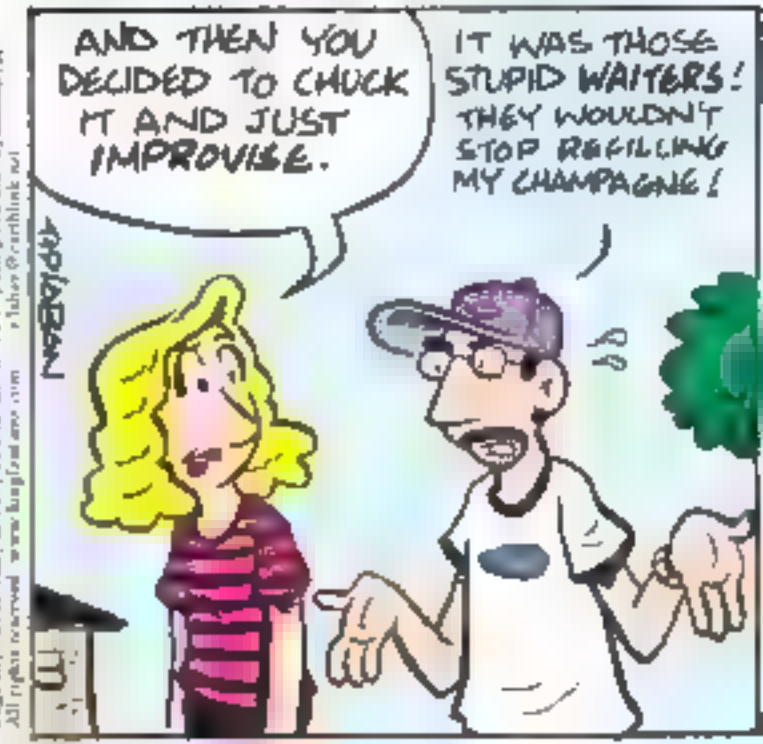

IT'S LABOR DAY--A YEAR ALREADY SINCE YOUR FRIEND MARTY'S WEDDING. HOW'S HE DOING?
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM SINCE.

I'M SURPRISED! YOU WERE ONE OF HIS GROOMSMEN, YOU ORGANIZED HIS BACHELOR PARTY, AND YOU MADE THAT BIG TOAST.
9/2

OH, YEAH-- THE TOAST. NOW I UNDERSTAND!
IT STARTED OUT OK...

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T APOLOGIZED TO MARTY! HE WAS ONE OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS!
I KNOW-- WE DID ALL SORTS OF ADVENTUROUS STUFF. BIKING, RAFTING, ROCK CLIMBING...
BUT IT ALL ENDED WHEN HE STARTED DATING EILEEN. SHE WAS SO CLINGY, HE COULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE FOR A WEEKEND.
WE TRIED CAMPING ONCE MORE. BUT EVEN THOUGH WE STAYED CLOSE BY, SHE KEPT CALLING US THE WHOLE TIME!
MARTY, I MISS YOU!
RELAX, HONEY! WE'RE JUST IN THE BACKYARD!





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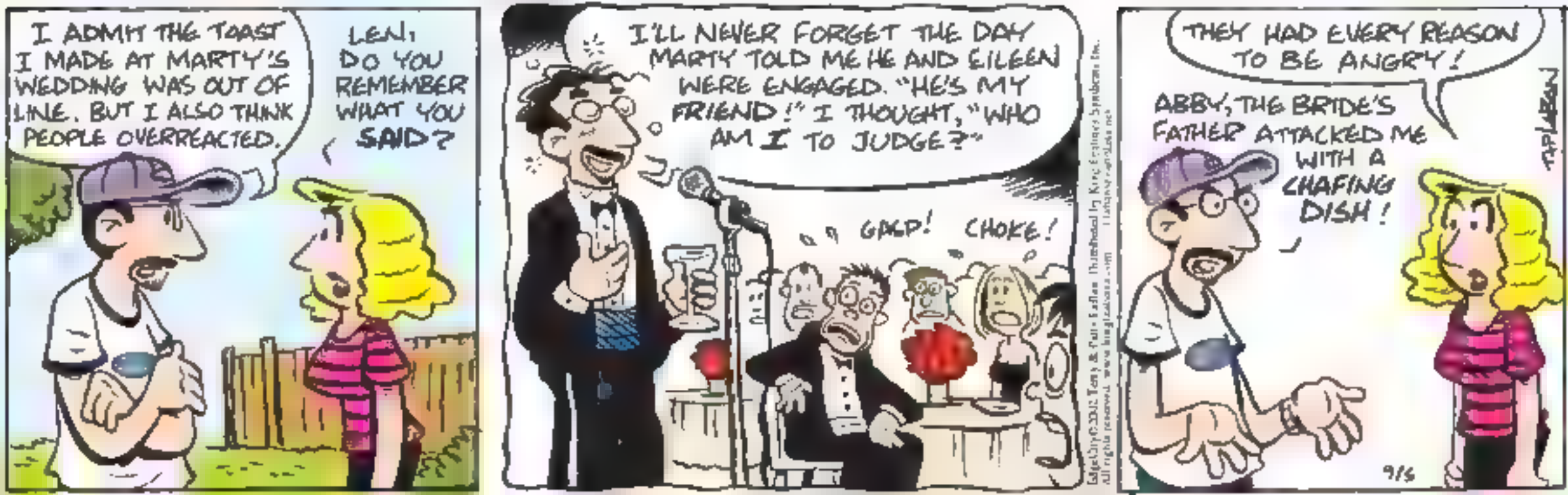
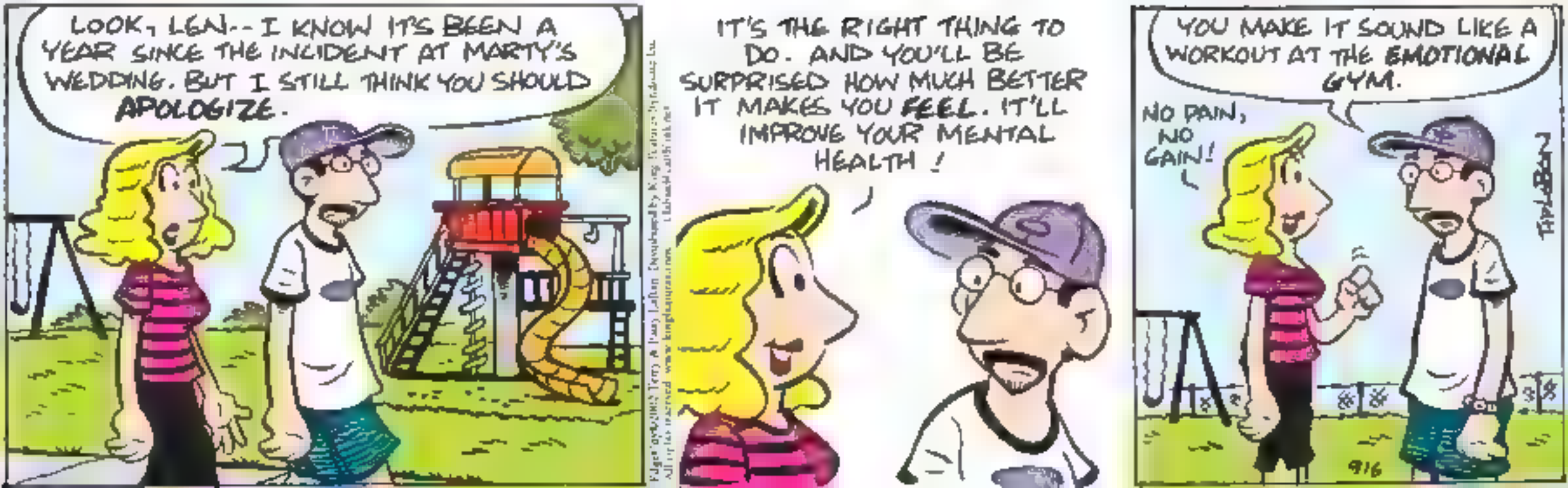
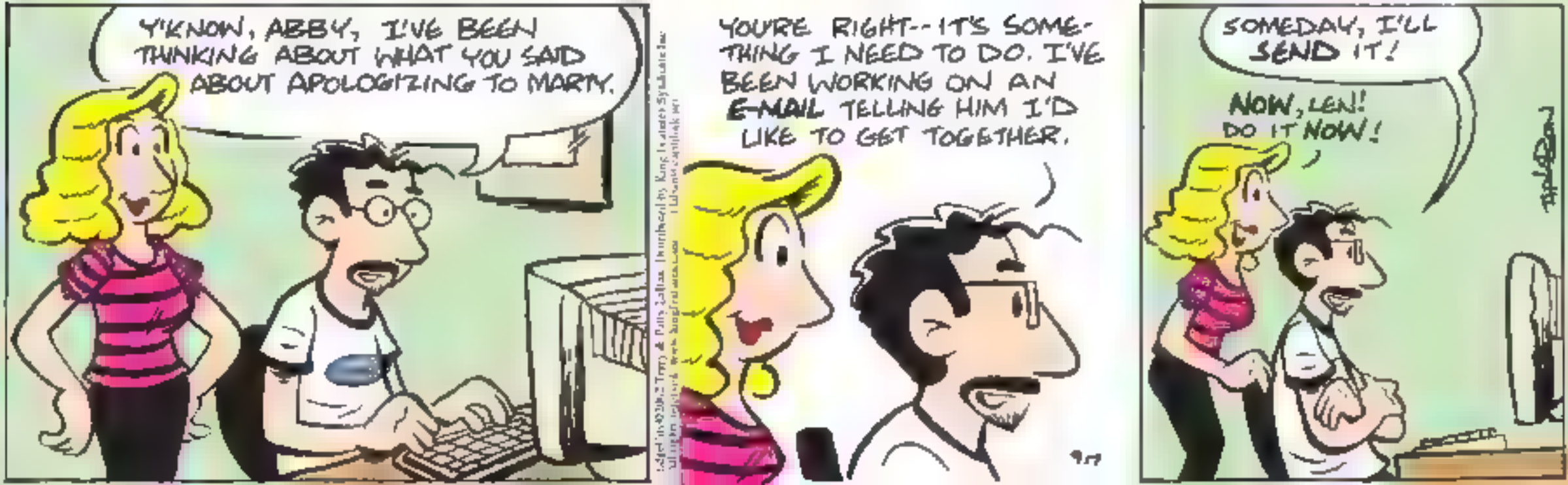
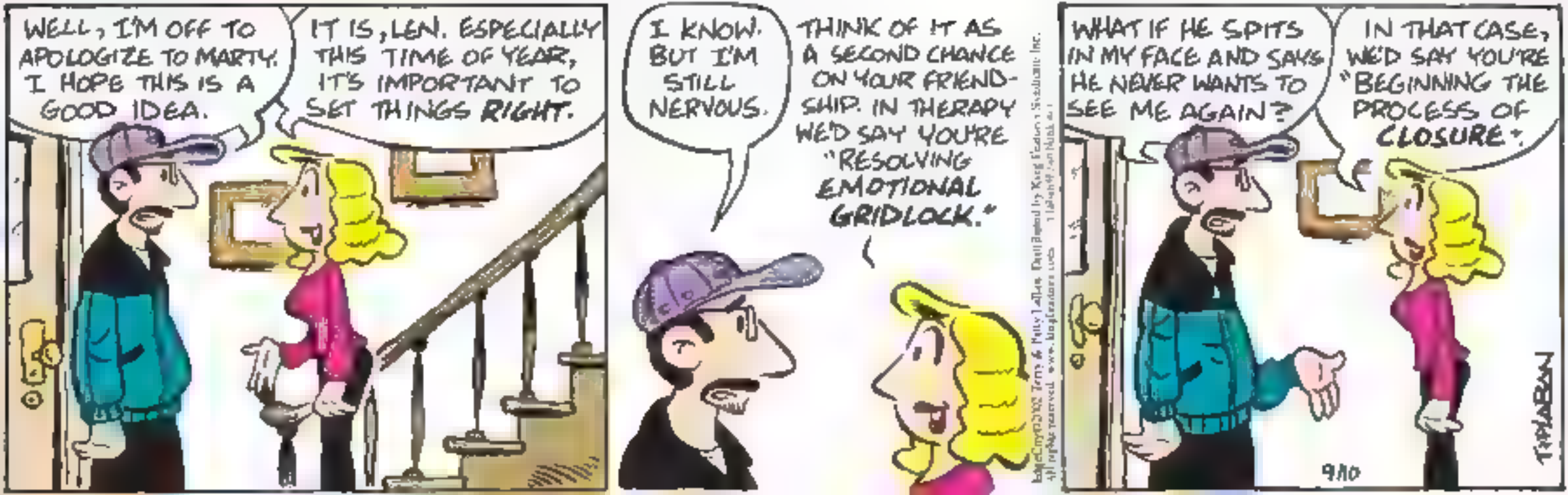

I ADMIT THE TOAST I MADE AT MARTY'S WEDDING WAS OUT OF LINE. BUT I ALSO THINK PEOPLE OVERREACTED.
LEN, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY MARTY TOLD ME HE AND EILEEN WERE ENGAGED. "HE'S MY FRIEND!" I THOUGHT, "WHO AM I TO JUDGE?"
GAGP! CHOKE!
THEY HAD EVERY REASON TO BE ANGRY!
ABBY, THE BRIDE'S FATHER ATTACKED ME WITH A CHAFING DISH!
9/5


LOOK, LEN-- I KNOW IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE INCIDENT AT MARTY'S WEDDING. BUT I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. AND YOU'LL BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH BETTER IT MAKES YOU FEEL. IT'LL IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A WORKOUT AT THE EMOTIONAL GYM.
NO PAIN, NO GAIN!
9/6


Y'KNOW, ABBY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT APOLOGIZING TO MARTY.
YOU'RE RIGHT--IT'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO. I'VE BEEN WORKING ON AN E-MAIL TELLING HIM I'D LIKE TO GET TOGETHER.
SOMEDAY, I'LL SEND IT!
NOW, LEN! DO IT NOW!

LEN? IT'S MARTY.
MARTY?! OH, WOW-- YOU GOT MY E-MAIL!
I DID. AND IF YOU WANT TO GET TOGETHER, IT WOULD BE FINE.
GREAT! TOMORROW AT 8:00?
9/9
SURE.
IT'S NICE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, MARTY. WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN A LONG TIME!
NOT SINCE YOU RUINED MY WEDDING.
OOPS! GOTTA GET THE OTHER LINE!

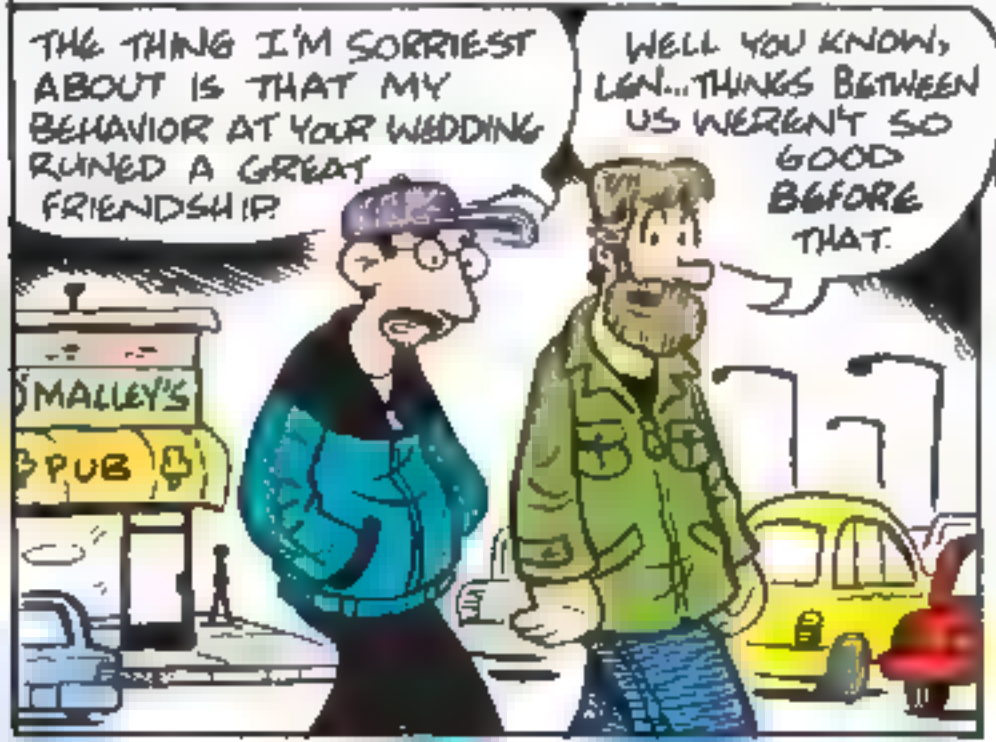

WELL, I'M OFF TO APOLOGIZE TO MARTY. I HOPE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.
IT IS, LEN. ESPECIALLY THIS TIME OF YEAR, IT'S IMPORTANT TO SET THINGS RIGHT.
I KNOW. BUT I'M STILL NERVOUS.
THINK OF IT AS A SECOND CHANCE ON YOUR FRIENDSHIP. IN THERAPY WE'D SAY YOU'RE "RESOLVING EMOTIONAL GRIDLOCK."
WHAT IF HE SPITS IN MY FACE AND SAYS HE NEVER WANTS TO SEE ME AGAIN?
IN THAT CASE, WE'D SAY YOU'RE "BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF CLOSURE".
9/10
TRAHAN

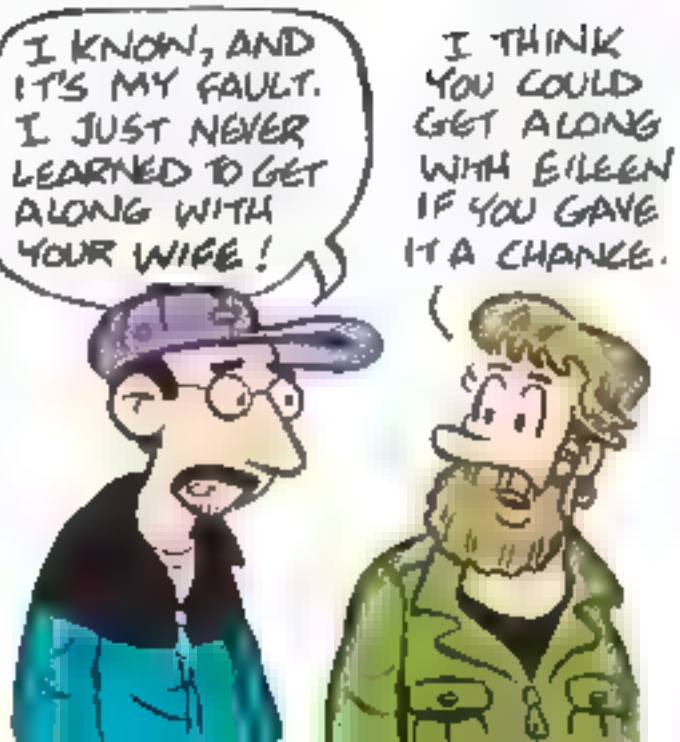
SO, LEN -- HERE WE ARE.
YEAH... LISTEN, MARTY... I KNOW IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOUR WEDDING AND I SHOULDVE SAID THIS BEFORE...
BUT THAT TOAST I MADE... IT WAS WRONG. I SCREWED UP, AND I APOLOGIZE.
WELL... I GUESS IT'S BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.
9/11
LOOK, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. I FORGIVE YOU, AND I KNOW EILEEN DOES, TOO.
ULP! THANKS!
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU ACTED LIKE A COMPLETE AND TOTAL JERK!
OF COURSE! THAT'S UNDERSTOOD!

I KNOW YOU NEVER LIKED EILEEN, LEN.
IT WAS JUST HARDER TO BE FRIENDS AFTER YOU TWO GOT TOGETHER. SHE NEEDED SO MUCH... ATTENTION.
9/12

SHE CAN SEEM NEEDY. BUT ONLY BECAUSE SHE'S SO PASSIONATE!
Y'KNOW, WE'VE BEEN MARRIED A YEAR AND SHE STILL CALLS AT LEAST ONCE A DAY TO SAY SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME!
BREE!
WOW...

CALM DOWN, SWEETIE -- DON'T DO ANYTHING DRASTIC! I'LL BE BACK WITHIN AN HOUR!
...THAT MUST BE NICE.





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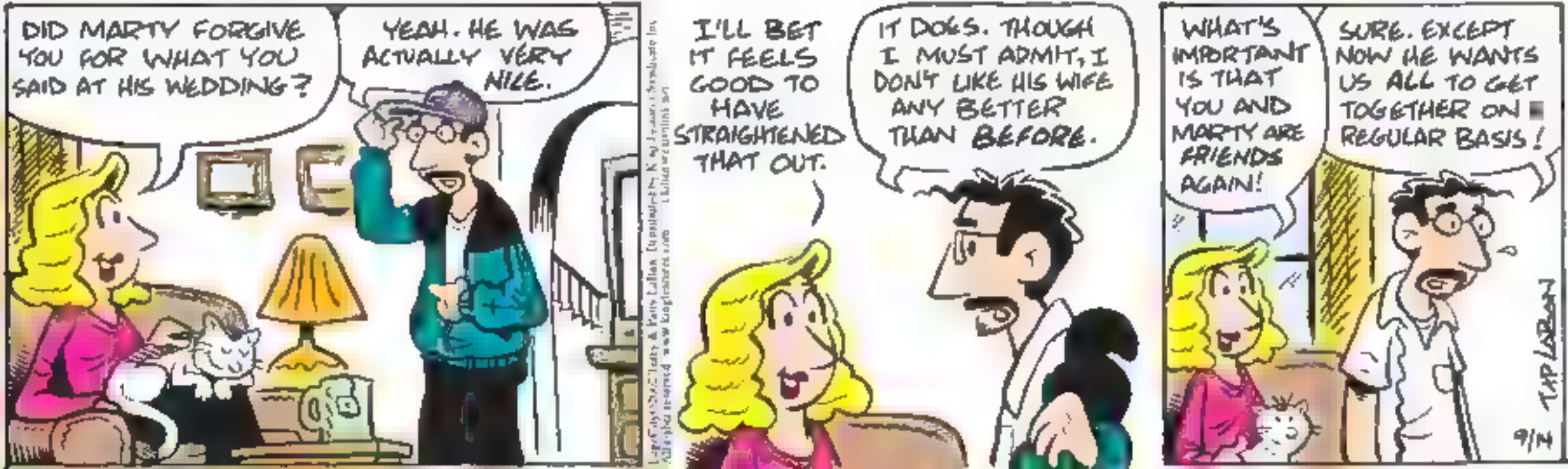
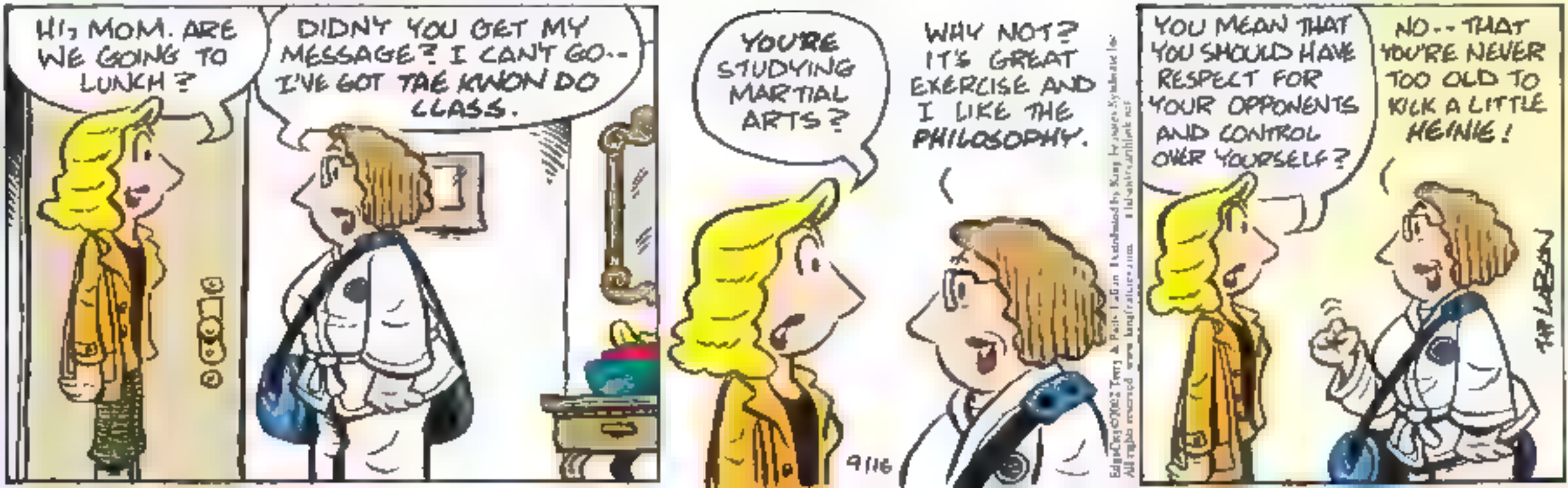
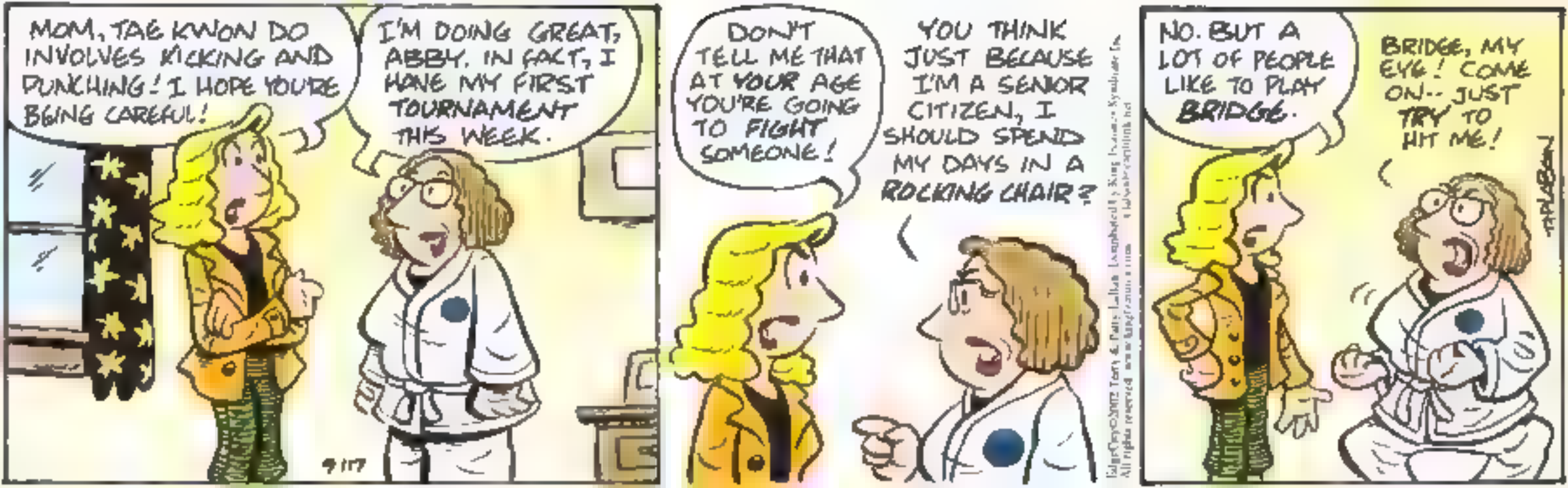
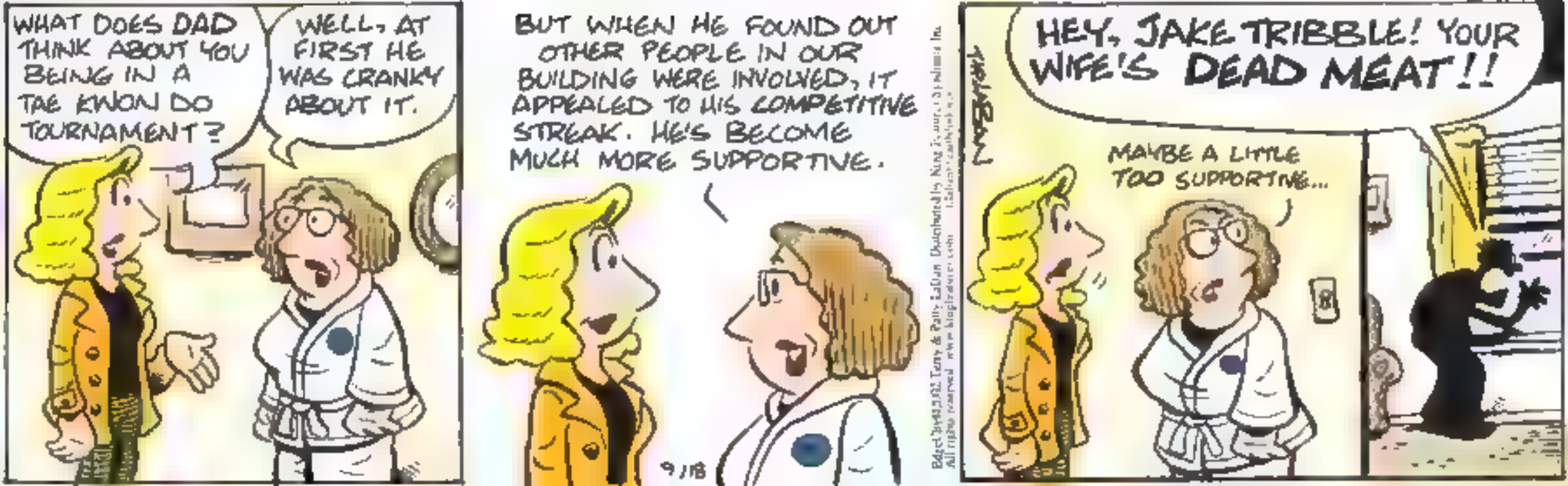
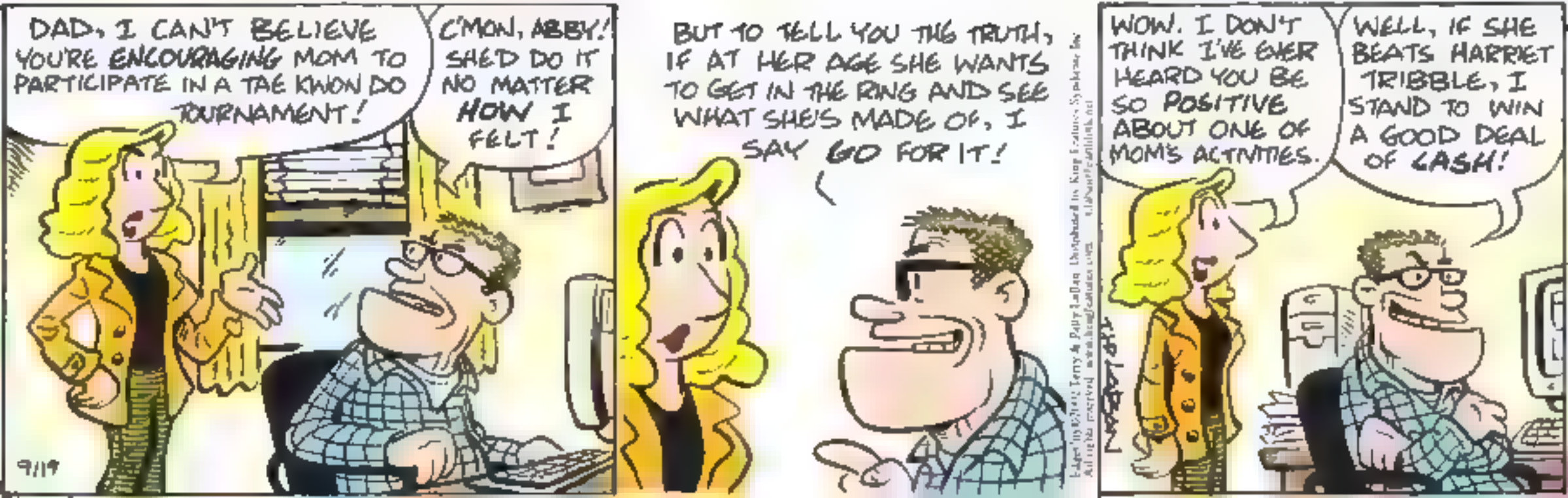
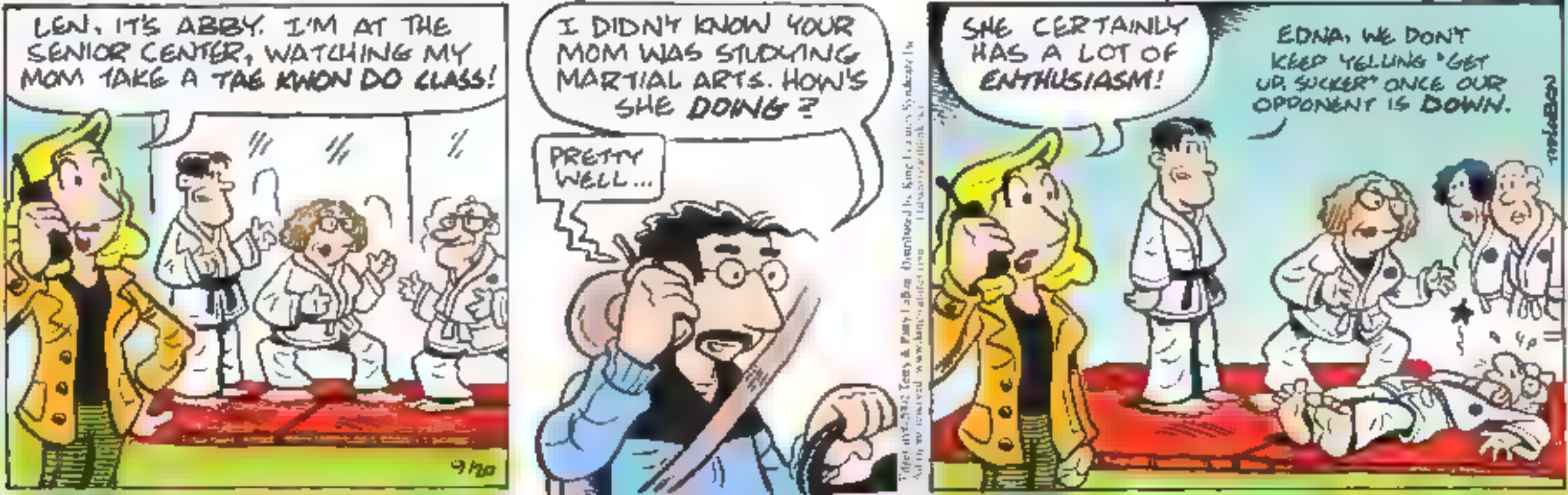

DID MARTY FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU SAID AT HIS WEDDING?
YEAH. HE WAS ACTUALLY VERY NICE.
I'LL BET IT FEELS GOOD TO HAVE STRAIGHTENED THAT OUT.
IT DOES. THOUGH I MUST ADMIT, I DON'T LIKE HIS WIFE ANY BETTER THAN BEFORE.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU AND MARTY ARE FRIENDS AGAIN!
SURE. EXCEPT NOW HE WANTS US ALL TO GET TOGETHER ON A REGULAR BASIS!
TAP LARSON
9/14


HI, MOM. ARE WE GOING TO LUNCH?
DIDN'T YOU GET MY MESSAGE? I CAN'T GO-- I'VE GOT TAE KWON DO CLASS.
YOU'RE STUDYING MARTIAL ARTS?
WHY NOT? IT'S GREAT EXERCISE AND I LIKE THE PHILOSOPHY.
9/16
YOU MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE RESPECT FOR YOUR OPPONENTS AND CONTROL OVER YOURSELF?
NO-- THAT YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO KICK A LITTLE HEINIE!
TOM LABRAN


MOM, TAE KWON DO INVOLVES KICKING AND PUNCHING! I HOPE YOU'RE BEING CAREFUL!
I'M DOING GREAT, ABBY. IN FACT, I HAVE MY FIRST TOURNAMENT THIS WEEK.
DON'T TELL ME THAT AT YOUR AGE YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT SOMEONE!
YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN, I SHOULD SPEND MY DAYS IN A ROCKING CHAIR?
NO. BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE TO PLAY BRIDGE.
BRIDGE, MY EYE! COME ON... JUST TRY TO HIT ME!


WHAT DOES DAD THINK ABOUT YOU BEING IN A TAE KWON DO TOURNAMENT?
WELL, AT FIRST HE WAS CRANKY ABOUT IT.
BUT WHEN HE FOUND OUT OTHER PEOPLE IN OUR BUILDING WERE INVOLVED, IT APPEALED TO HIS COMPETITIVE STREAK. HE'S BECOME MUCH MORE SUPPORTIVE.
9/18
HEY, JAKE TRIBBLE! YOUR WIFE'S DEAD MEAT!!
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO SUPPORTIVE...


DAD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ENCOURAGING MOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A TAE KWON DO TOURNAMENT!
C'MON, ABBY! SHE'D DO IT NO MATTER HOW I FELT!
9/19
BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF AT HER AGE SHE WANTS TO GET IN THE RING AND SEE WHAT SHE'S MADE OF, I SAY GO FOR IT!
WOW. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU BE SO POSITIVE ABOUT ONE OF MOM'S ACTIVITIES.
WELL, IF SHE BEATS HARRIET TRIBBLE, I STAND TO WIN A GOOD DEAL OF CASH!


LEN, IT'S ABBY. I'M AT THE SENIOR CENTER, WATCHING MY MOM TAKE A TAE KWON DO CLASS!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR MOM WAS STUDYING MARTIAL ARTS. HOW'S SHE DOING?
PRETTY WELL...
SHE CERTAINLY HAS A LOT OF ENTHUSIASM!
EDNA, WE DON'T KEEP YELLING "GET UP, SUCKER" ONCE OUR OPPONENT IS DOWN.

I'M SURPRISED HOW FREAKED OUT I GOT ABOUT MY MOM STUDYING MARTIAL ARTS.
THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY
I GUESS IT'S STILL A SURPRISE WHEN OLDER PEOPLE ACT SO MUCH AGAINST STEREOTYPE.
TRUE. BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT...
ONCE A PERSON REACHES A CERTAIN AGE, THEY DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE THEIR MOM COULD BEAT THEM UP.
WOW. WHEN YOU SAID THAT, I GOT A CHILL!
9/21

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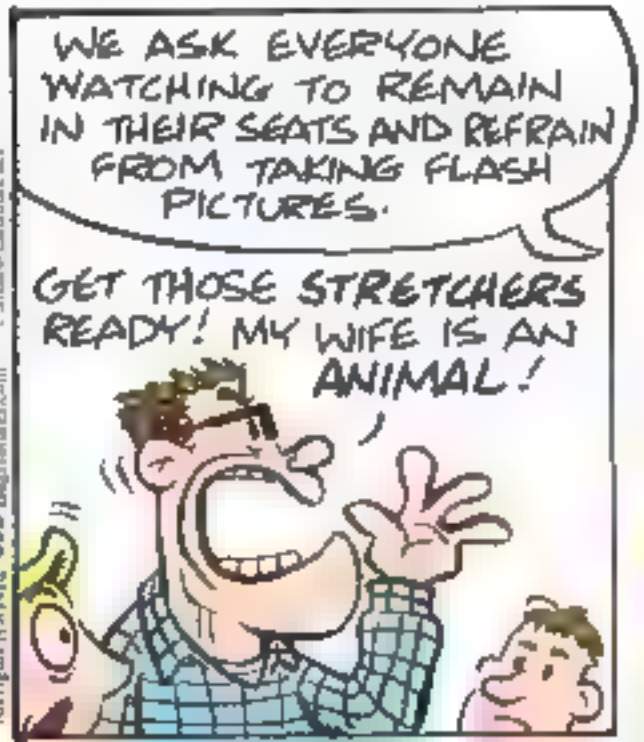
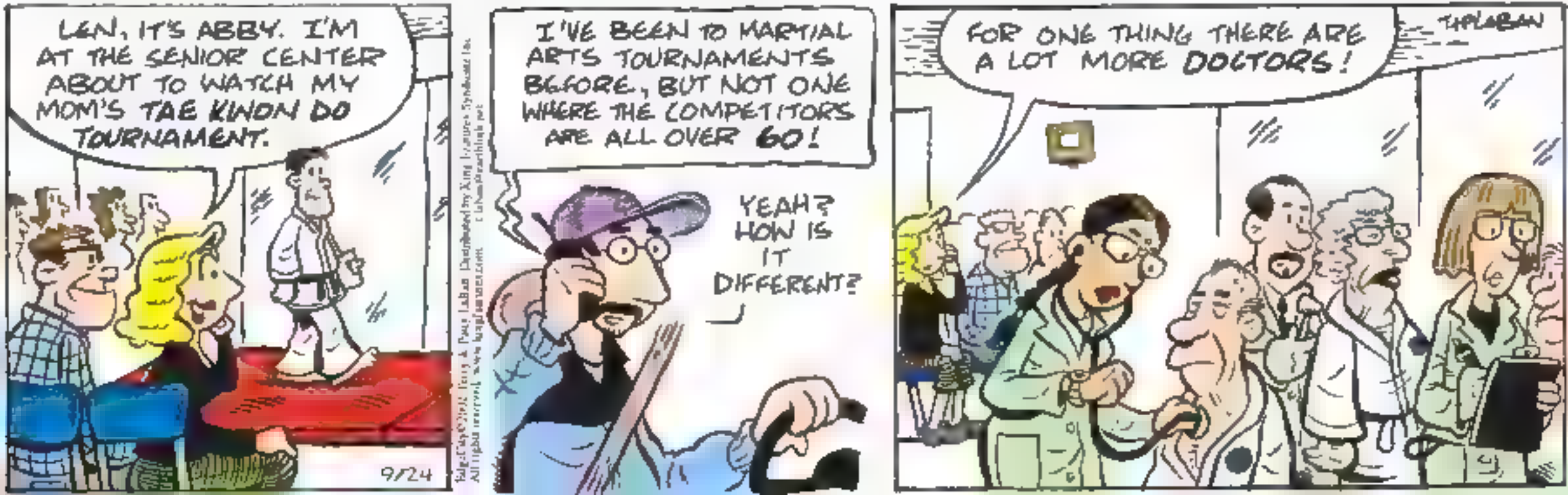
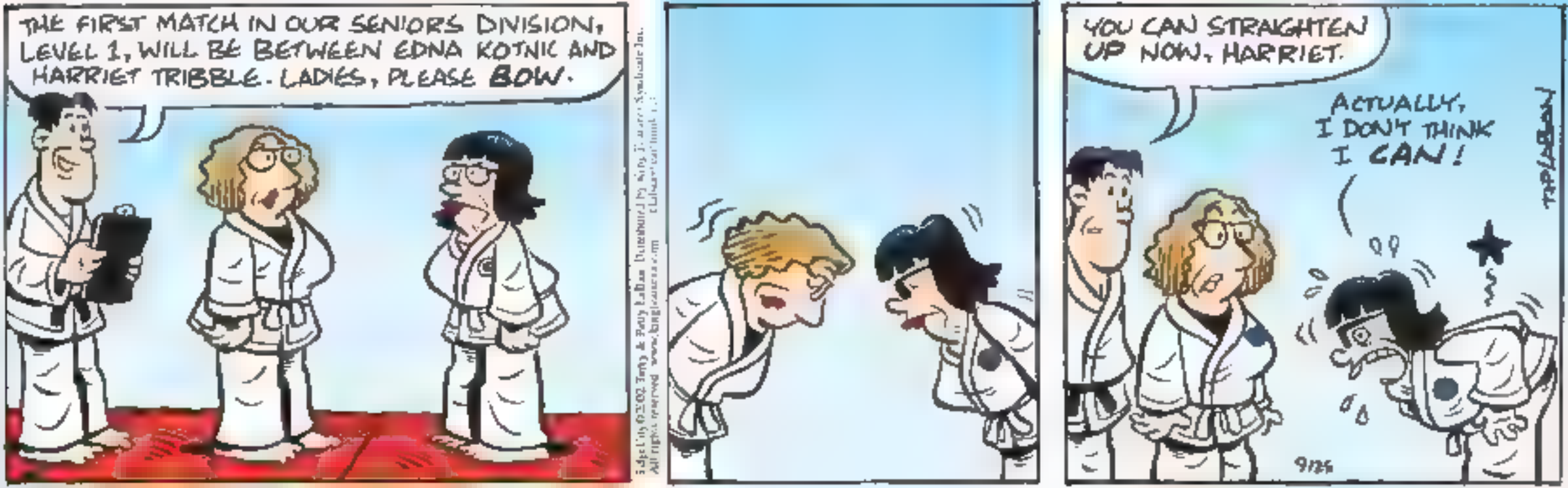
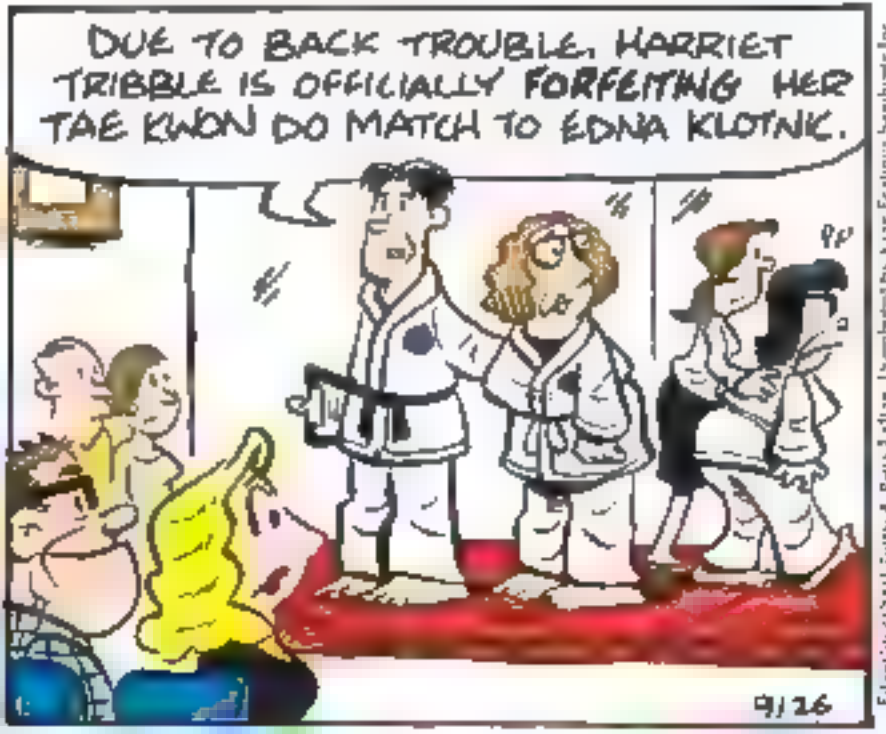



LEN, IT'S ABBY. I'M AT THE SENIOR CENTER ABOUT TO WATCH MY MOM'S TAE KWON DO TOURNAMENT.
9/24
I'VE BEEN TO MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENTS BEFORE, BUT NOT ONE WHERE THE COMPETITORS ARE ALL OVER 60!
YEAH? HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?
FOR ONE THING THERE ARE A LOT MORE DOCTORS!
THPLABAN

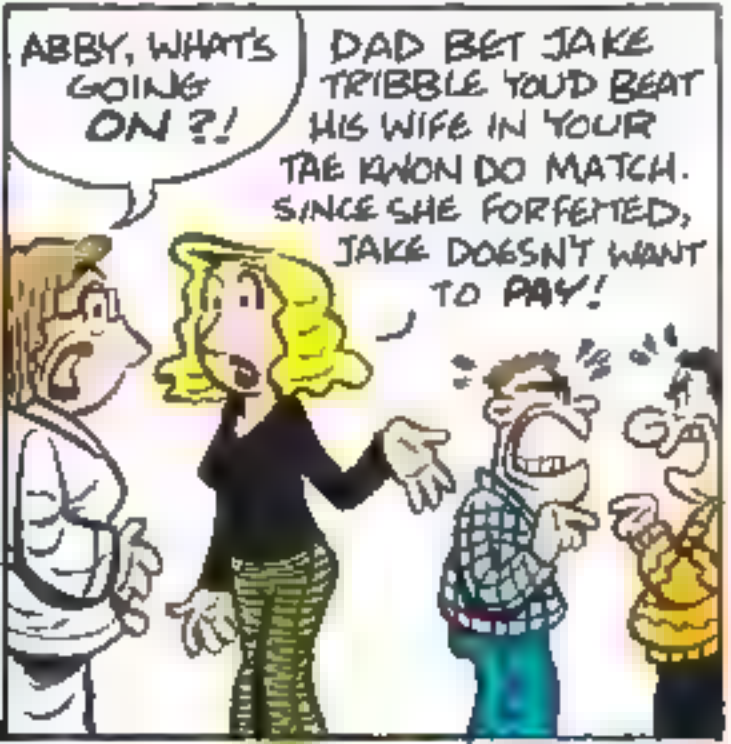

THE FIRST MATCH IN OUR SENIORS DIVISION, LEVEL 1, WILL BE BETWEEN EDNA KOTNIC AND HARRIET TRIBBLE. LADIES, PLEASE BOW.
YOU CAN STRAIGHTEN UP NOW, HARRIET.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK I CAN!
9/26


DUE TO BACK TROUBLE, HARRIET TRIBBLE IS OFFICIALLY FORFEITING HER TAE KWON DO MATCH TO EDNA KLOTNK.
9/26

EDNA WINS! OH, YES! WOOF! WOOF!

DAD, SETTLE DOWN! MOM DIDN'T EXACTLY BEAT HARRIET!
IT DOESN'T MATTER!

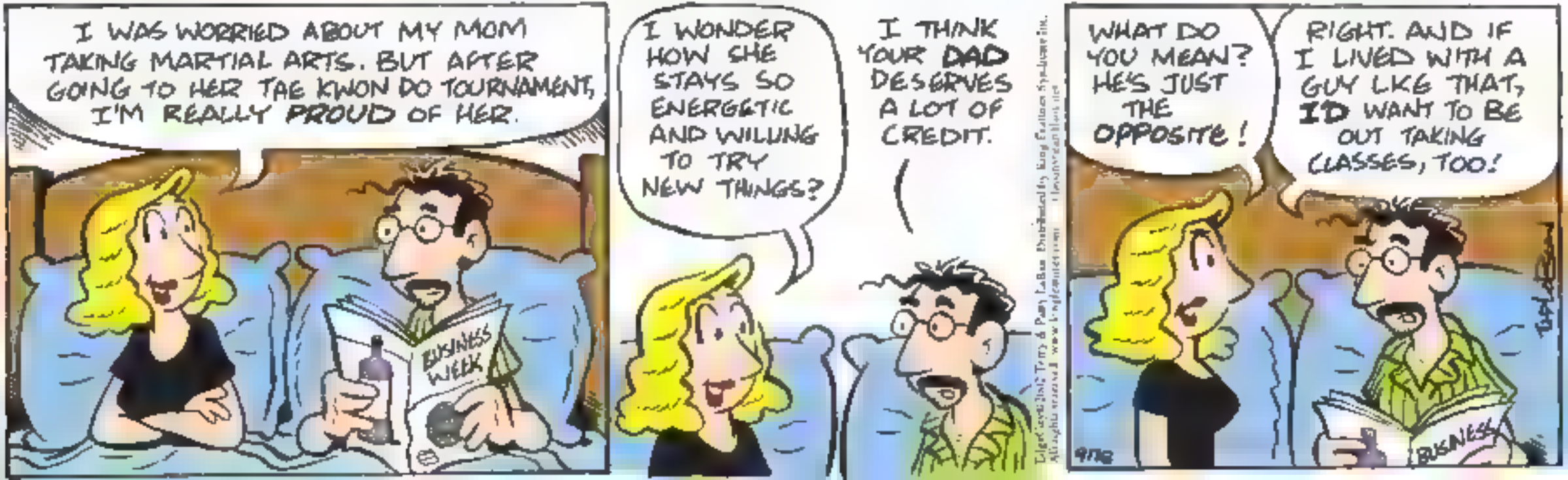
JAKE TRIBBLE STILL OWES ME 150 BUCKS!
THE HECK I DO! I BET ON A FIGHT, NOT A FORFEIT!

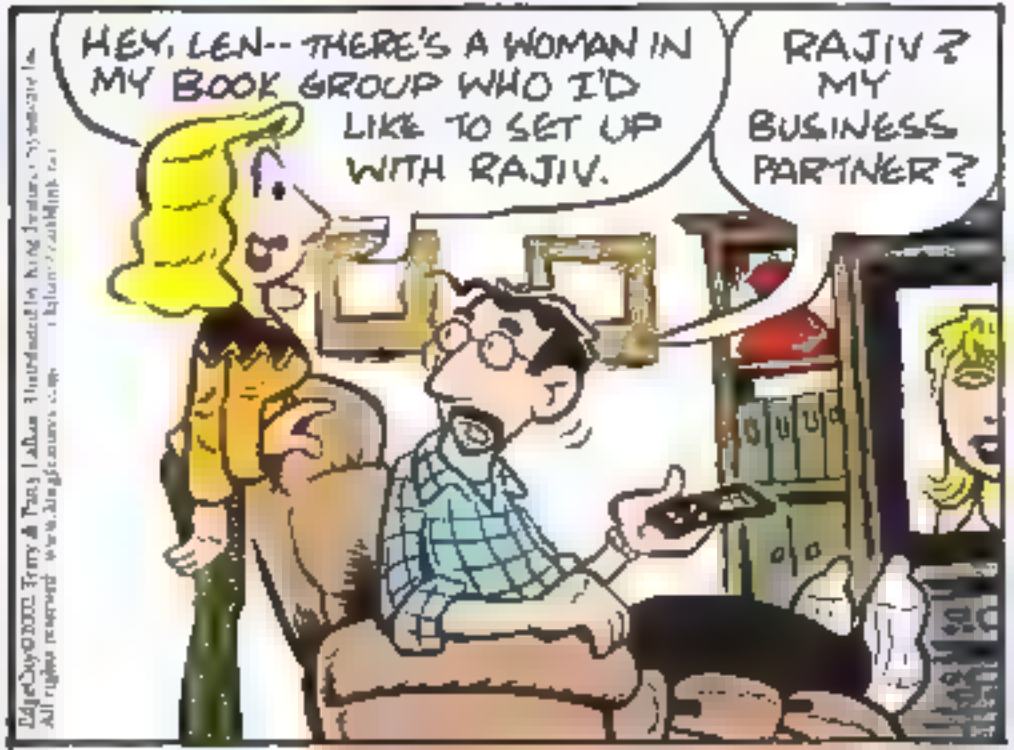

ABBY, WHAT'S GOING ON ?!
DAD BET JAKE TRIBBLE YOU'D BEAT HIS WIFE IN YOUR TAE KWON DO MATCH. SINCE SHE FORFEITED, JAKE DOESN'T WANT TO PAY!

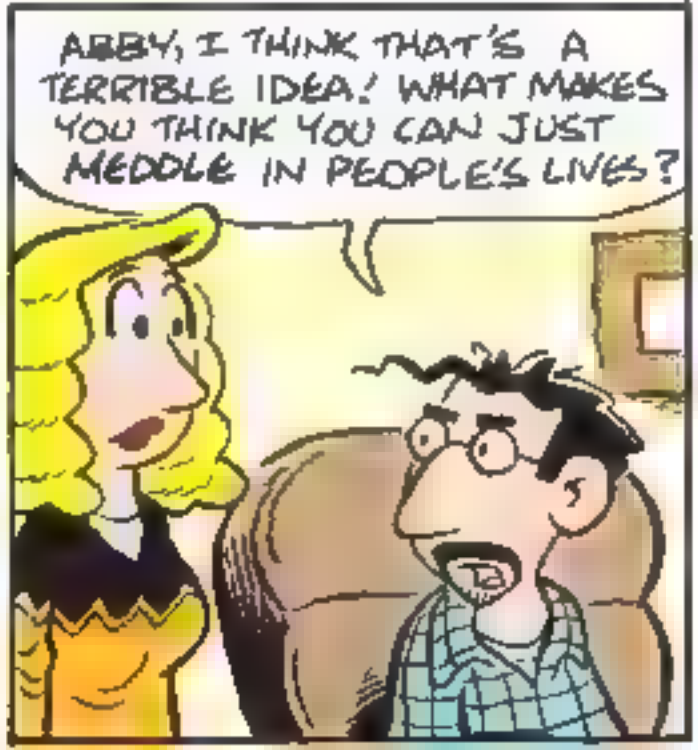
I'LL SHOW YOU, YOU DEADBEAT!
YOU AND WHAT ARMY?

HAI-YAH!!
THPLABAN 9/27

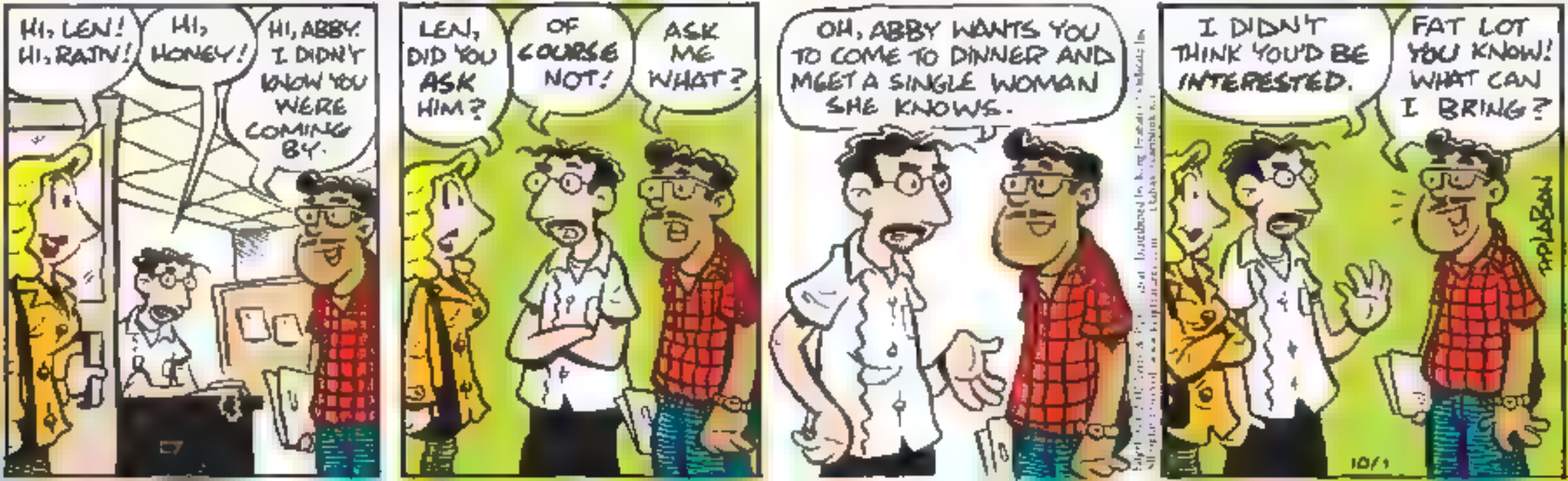
ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE ON 2 OPPONENTS UNTIL THE NEXT LEVEL.
TELL YOU WHAT, MORRIS-- CANCEL THE BET AND I WON'T SUE.

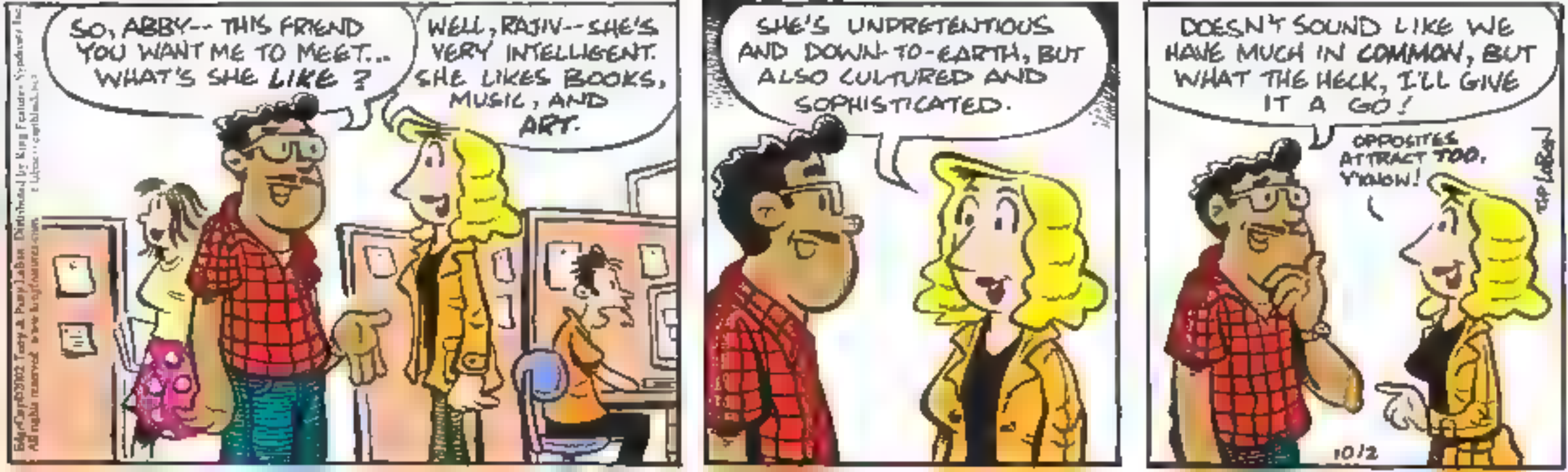

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY MOM TAKING MARTIAL ARTS. BUT AFTER GOING TO HER TAE KWON DO TOURNAMENT, I'M REALLY PROUD OF HER.
BUSINESS WEEK
I WONDER HOW SHE STAYS SO ENERGETIC AND WILLING TO TRY NEW THINGS?
I THINK YOUR DAD DESERVES A LOT OF CREDIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HE'S JUST THE OPPOSITE!
RIGHT. AND IF I LIVED WITH A GUY LIKE THAT, I'D WANT TO BE OUT TAKING CLASSES, TOO!
BUSINESS

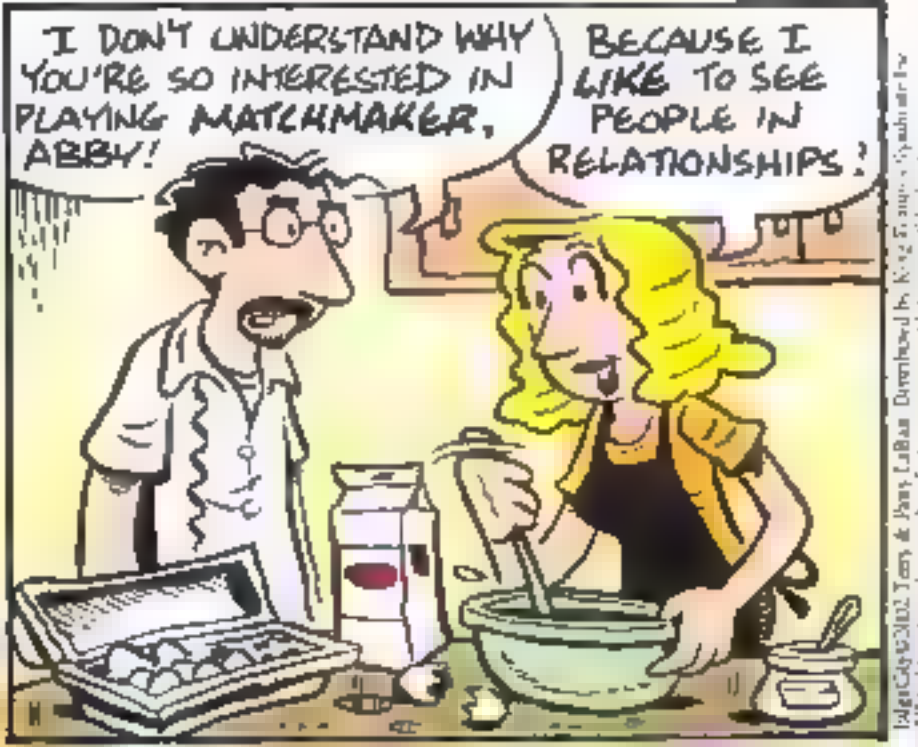

HEY, LEN-- THERE'S A WOMAN IN MY BOOK GROUP WHO I'D LIKE TO SET UP WITH RAJIV.
RAJIV? MY BUSINESS PARTNER?

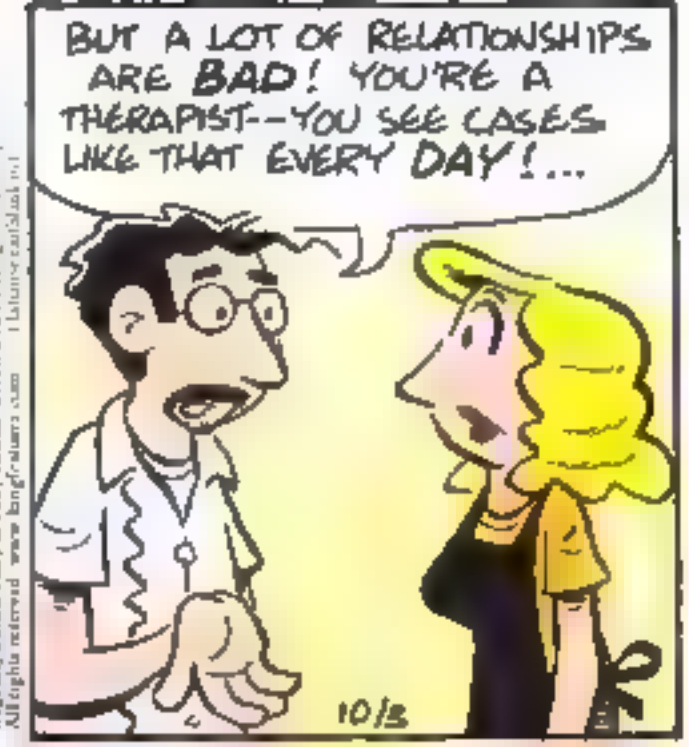

ABBY, I THINK THAT'S A TERRIBLE IDEA! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST MEDDLE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES?

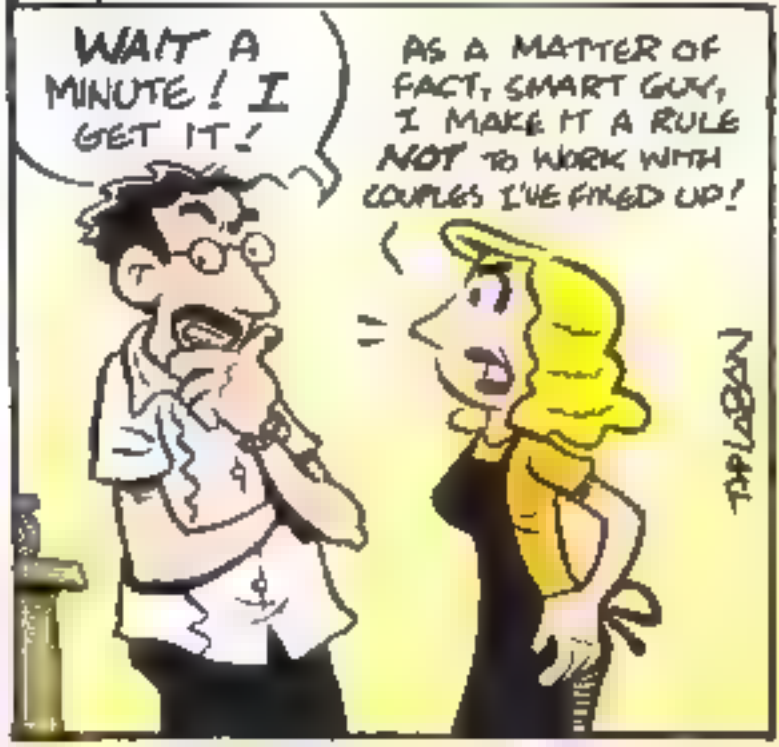
I'M A THERAPIST. IT'S MY JOB!
THEN FOR A HOBBY, YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ELSE.
9/30
THALABAN

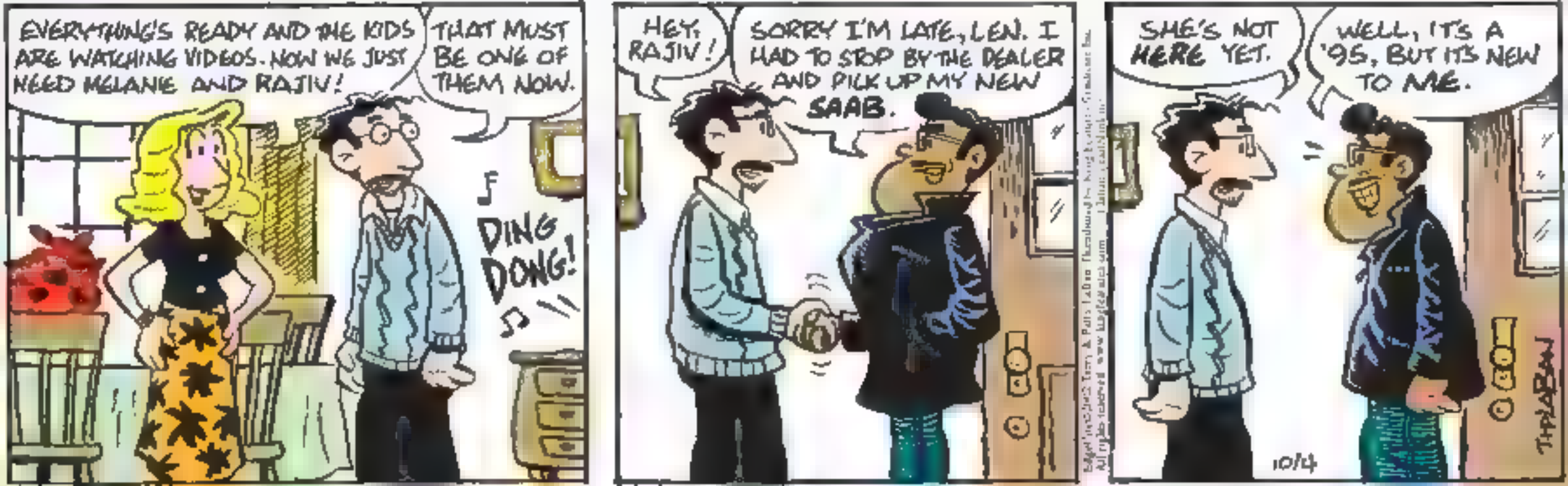

HI, LEN! HI, RAJIV!
HI, HONEY!
HI, ABBY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING BY.
LEN, DID YOU ASK HIM?
OF COURSE NOT!
ASK ME WHAT?
OH, ABBY WANTS YOU TO COME TO DINNER AND MEET A SINGLE WOMAN SHE KNOWS.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE INTERESTED.
FAT LOT YOU KNOW! WHAT CAN I BRING?
TOLABON
10/1

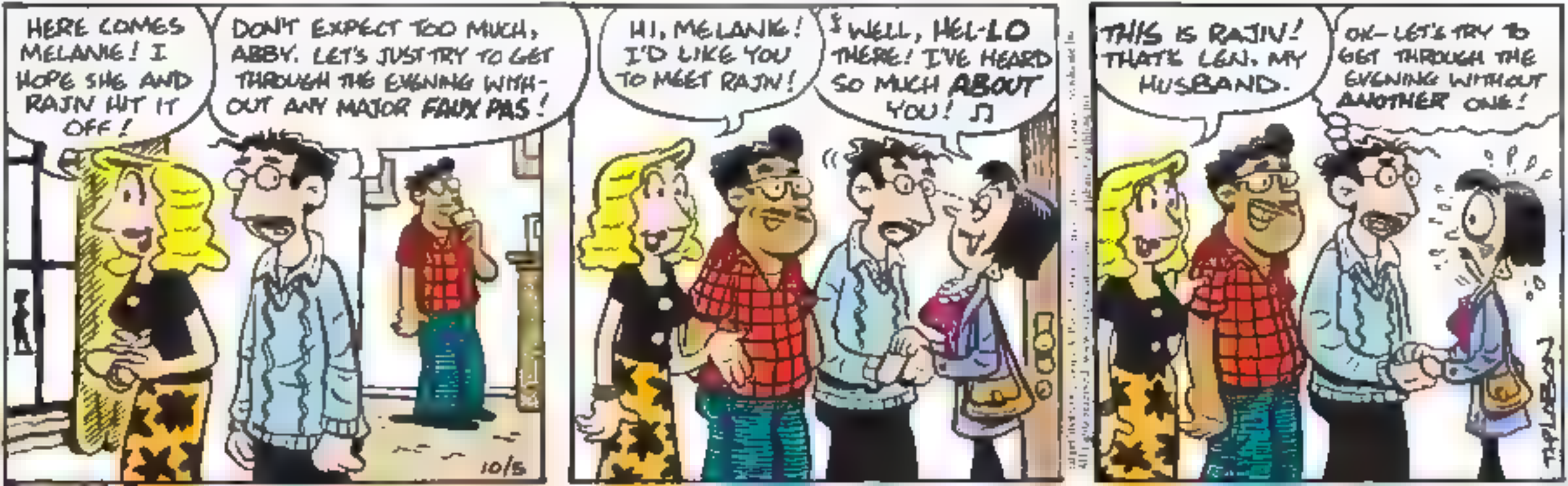

SO, ABBY-- THIS FRIEND YOU WANT ME TO MEET... WHAT'S SHE LIKE ?
WELL, RAJIV--SHE'S VERY INTELLIGENT. SHE LIKES BOOKS, MUSIC, AND ART.
SHE'S UNPRETENTIOUS AND DOWN-TO-EARTH, BUT ALSO CULTURED AND SOPHISTICATED.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, BUT WHAT THE HECK, I'LL GIVE IT A GO!
OPPOSITES ATTRACT TOO, Y'KNOW!
10/2

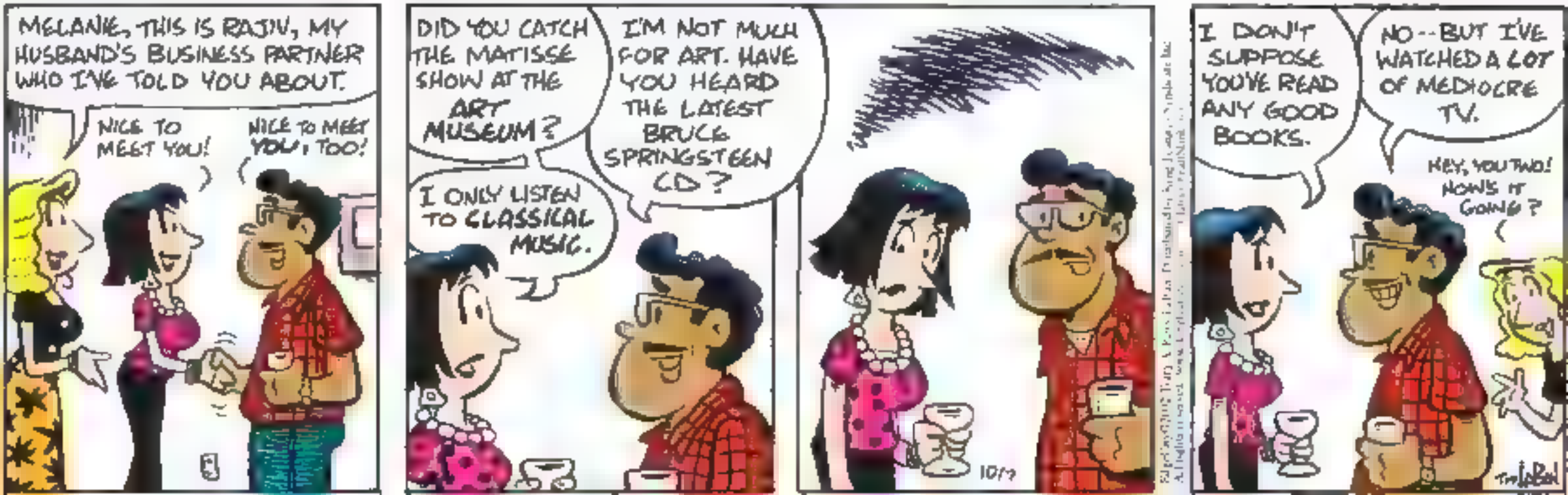

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN PLAYING MATCHMAKER, ABBY!
BECAUSE I LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE IN RELATIONSHIPS!

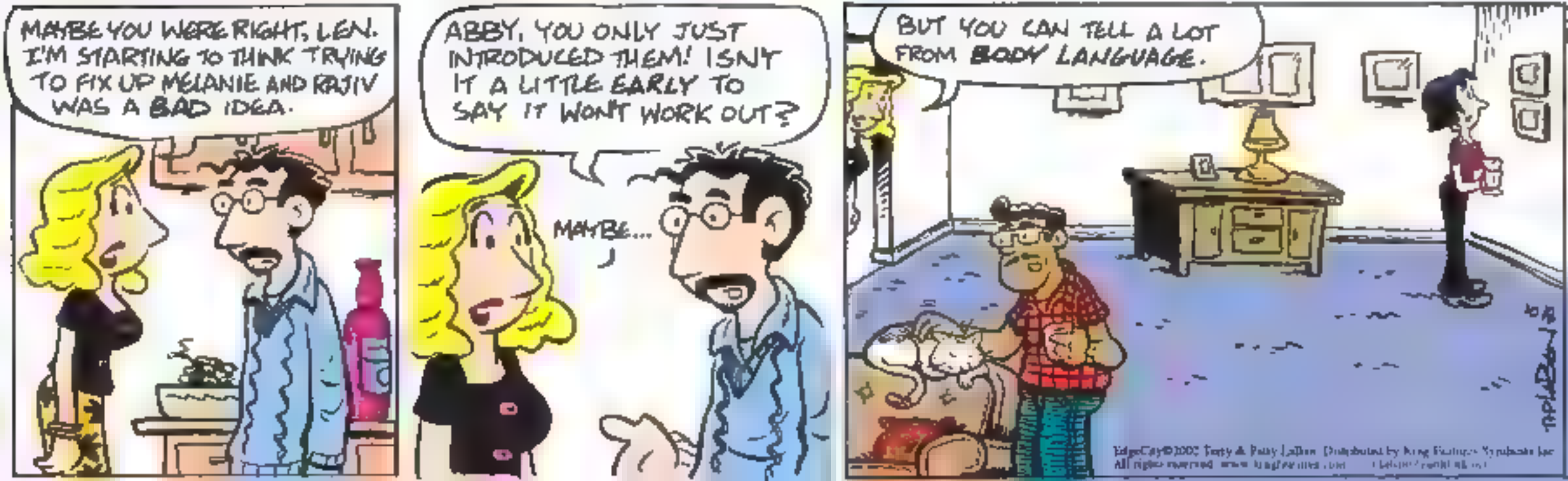

BUT A LOT OF RELATIONSHIPS ARE BAD! YOU'RE A THERAPIST--YOU SEE CASES LIKE THAT EVERY DAY!...
10/3

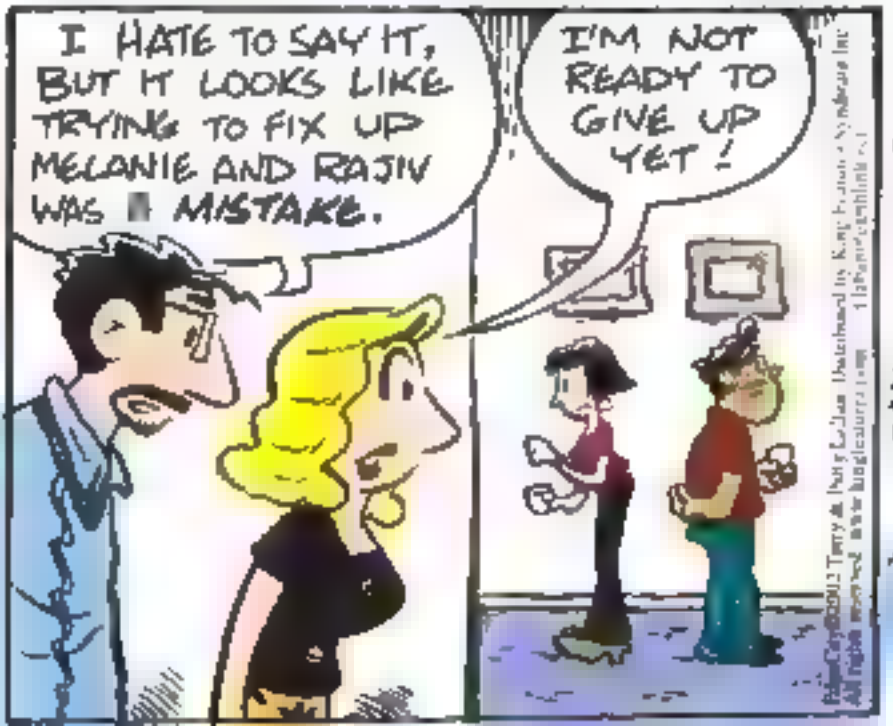

WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, SMART GUY, I MAKE IT A RULE NOT TO WORK WITH COUPLES I'VE FIXED UP!
TONY LABAN


EVERYTHING'S READY AND THE KIDS ARE WATCHING VIDEOS. NOW WE JUST NEED MELANIE AND RAJIV!
THAT MUST BE ONE OF THEM NOW.
DING DONG!
HEY, RAJIV!
SORRY I'M LATE, LEN. I HAD TO STOP BY THE DEALER AND PICK UP MY NEW SAAB.
SHE'S NOT HERE YET.
WELL, IT'S A '95, BUT IT'S NEW TO ME.
10/4
THABAW

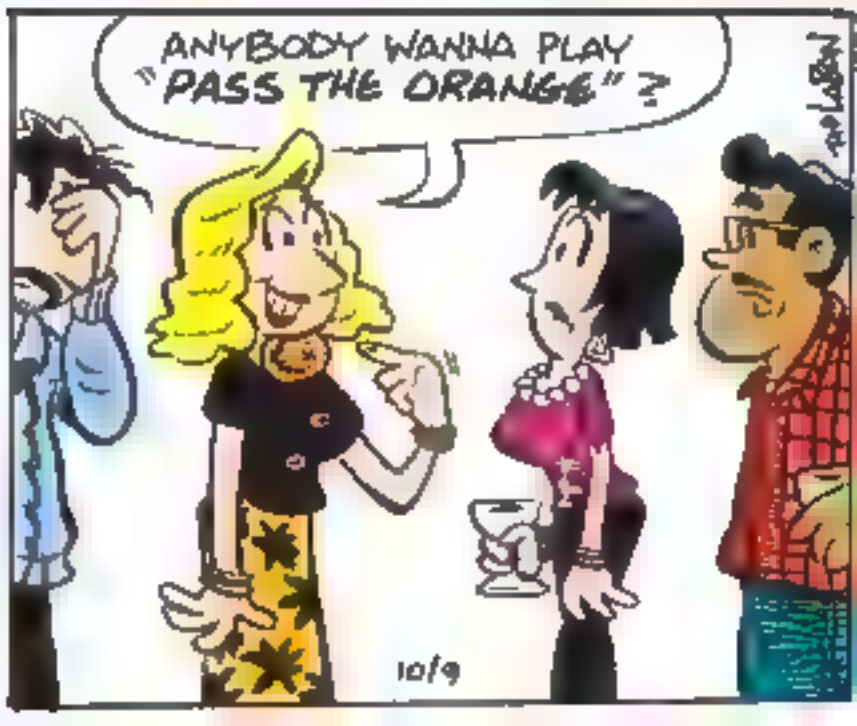

HERE COMES MELANIE! I HOPE SHE AND RAJIV HIT IT OFF!
DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH, ABBY. LET'S JUST TRY TO GET THROUGH THE EVENING WITHOUT ANY MAJOR FAUX PAS!
10/5
HI, MELANIE! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET RAJIV!
WELL, HEL-LO THERE! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU! ♫
THIS IS RAJIV! THAT'S LEN, MY HUSBAND.
OK– LET'S TRY TO GET THROUGH THE EVENING WITHOUT ANOTHER ONE!


MELANIE, THIS IS RAJIV, MY HUSBAND'S BUSINESS PARTNER WHO I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO!
DID YOU CATCH THE MATISSE SHOW AT THE ART MUSEUM?
I'M NOT MUCH FOR ART. HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN CD?
I ONLY LISTEN TO CLASSICAL MUSIC.
10/17
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE READ ANY GOOD BOOKS.
NO--BUT I'VE WATCHED A LOT OF MEDIOCRE TV.
HEY, YOU TWO! HOW'S IT GOING?


MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT, LEN. I'M STARTING TO THINK TRYING TO FIX UP MELANIE AND RAJIV WAS A BAD IDEA.
ABBY, YOU ONLY JUST INTRODUCED THEM! ISN'T IT A LITTLE EARLY TO SAY IT WON'T WORK OUT?
MAYBE...
BUT YOU CAN TELL A LOT FROM BODY LANGUAGE.


I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TRYING TO FIX UP MELANIE AND RAJIV WAS A MISTAKE.
I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP YET!

LOOK, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY HAVEN'T HIT IT OFF. WHAT CAN YOU DO?
I'M A THERAPIST, LEN. I KNOW ALL SORTS OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION!

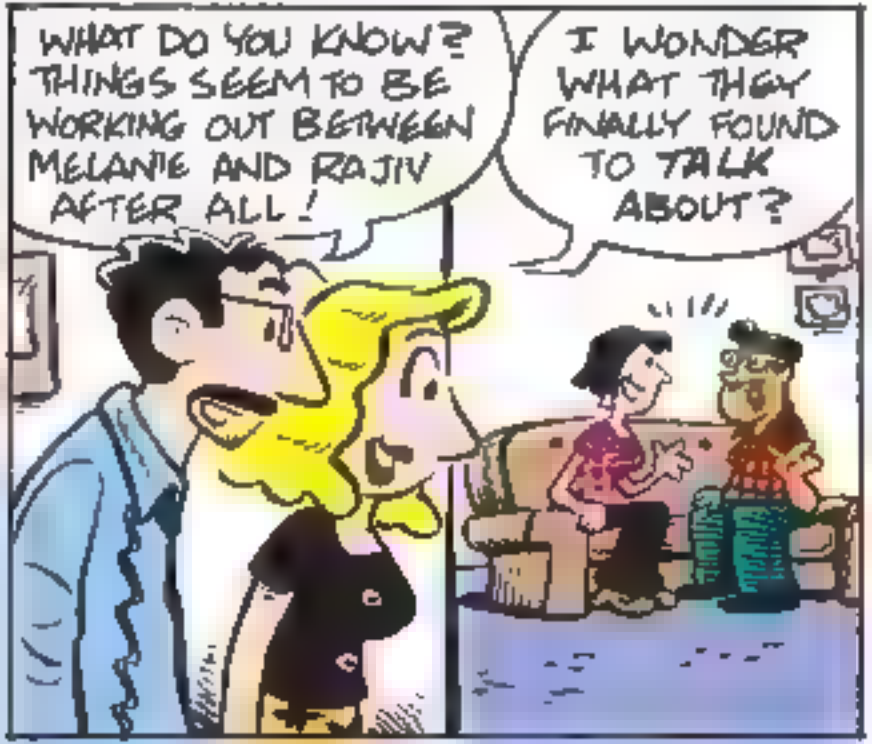

ANYBODY WANNA PLAY "PASS THE ORANGE"?
10/9

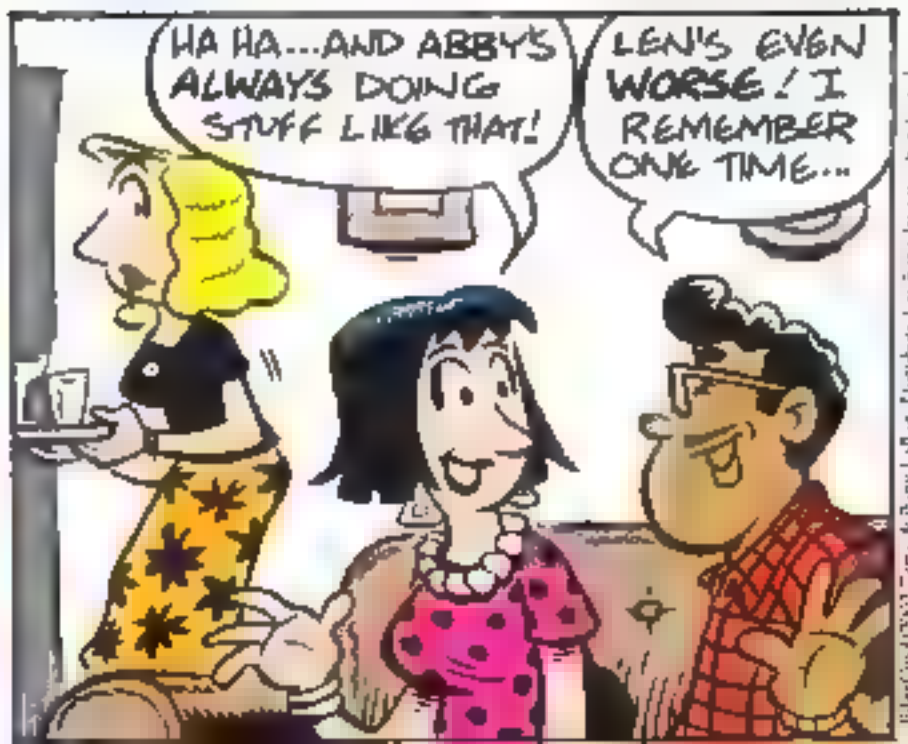
LOOK, MELANIE... IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU, BUT I'VE REALLY GOT TO GO.
ME, TOO.

HEH... I GUESS THIS WAS KIND OF UNCOMFORTABLE FOR BOTH OF US.
YEAH. BUT WE OUGHT TO BLAME ABBY. SHE ARRANGED IT.
10/10
TRY LARSON

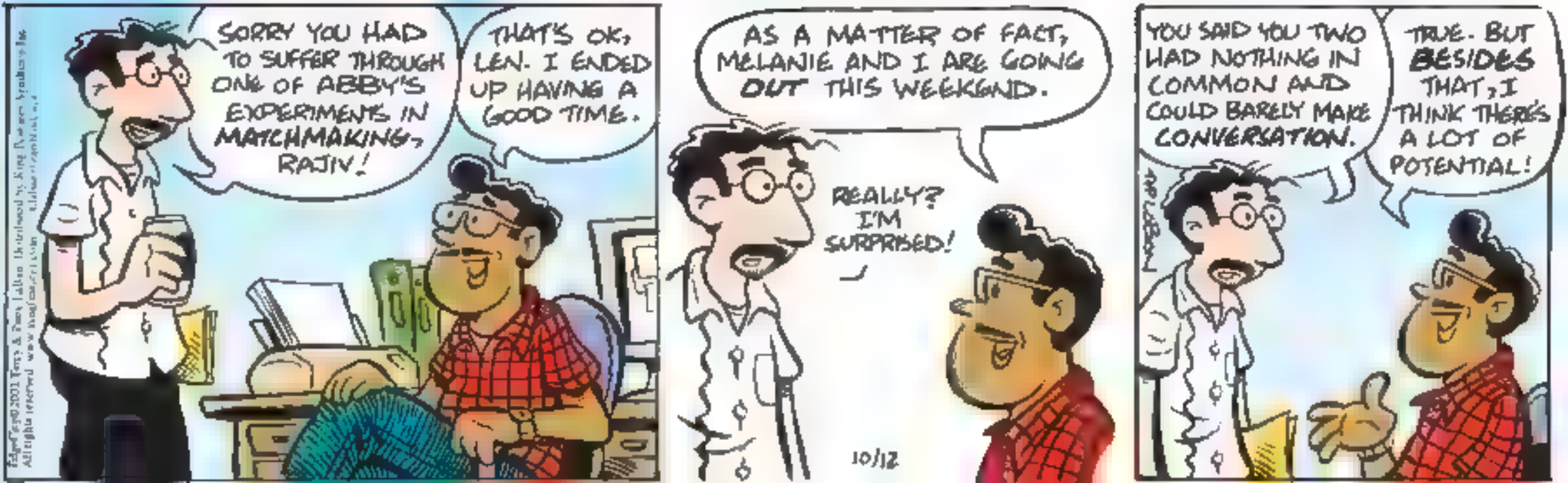
I KNOW SHE MEANT WELL. BUT HOW COULD A THERAPIST TRY TO FIX UP 2 PEOPLE AS DIFFERENT AS WE ARE?
I UNDERSTAND. BUT THEN, I WORK WITH HER HUSBAND!...

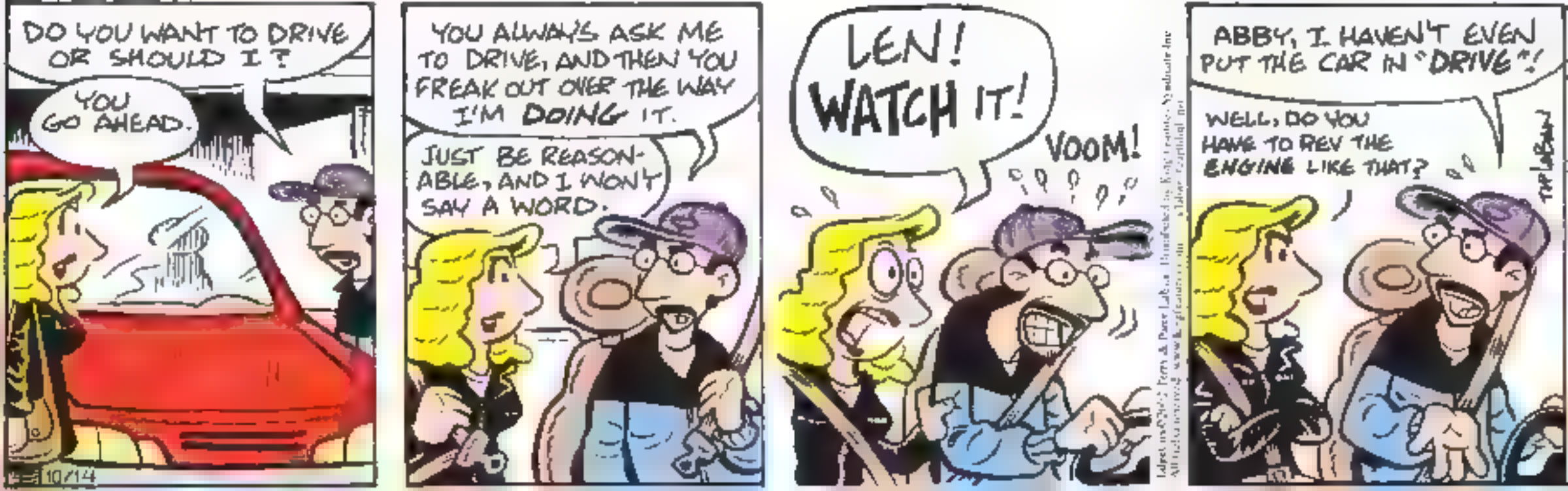
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT, ABBY! RAJIV AND MELANIE DID FIND SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!

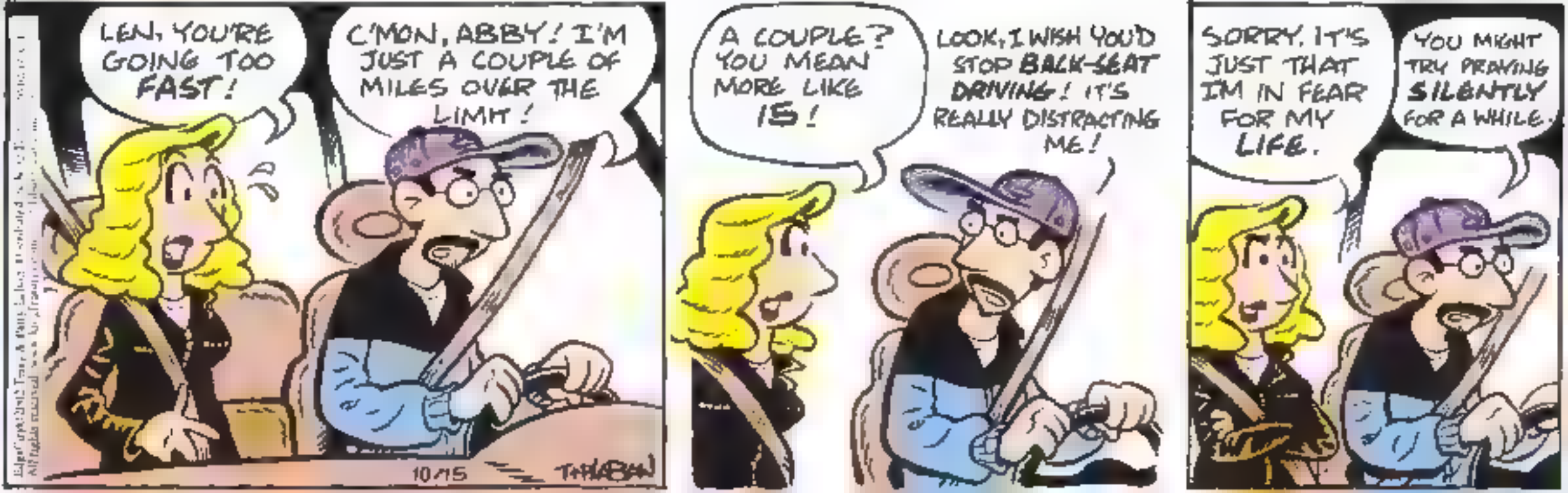

WHAT DO YOU KNOW? THINGS SEEM TO BE WORKING OUT BETWEEN MELANIE AND RAJIV AFTER ALL!
I WONDER WHAT THEY FINALLY FOUND TO TALK ABOUT?

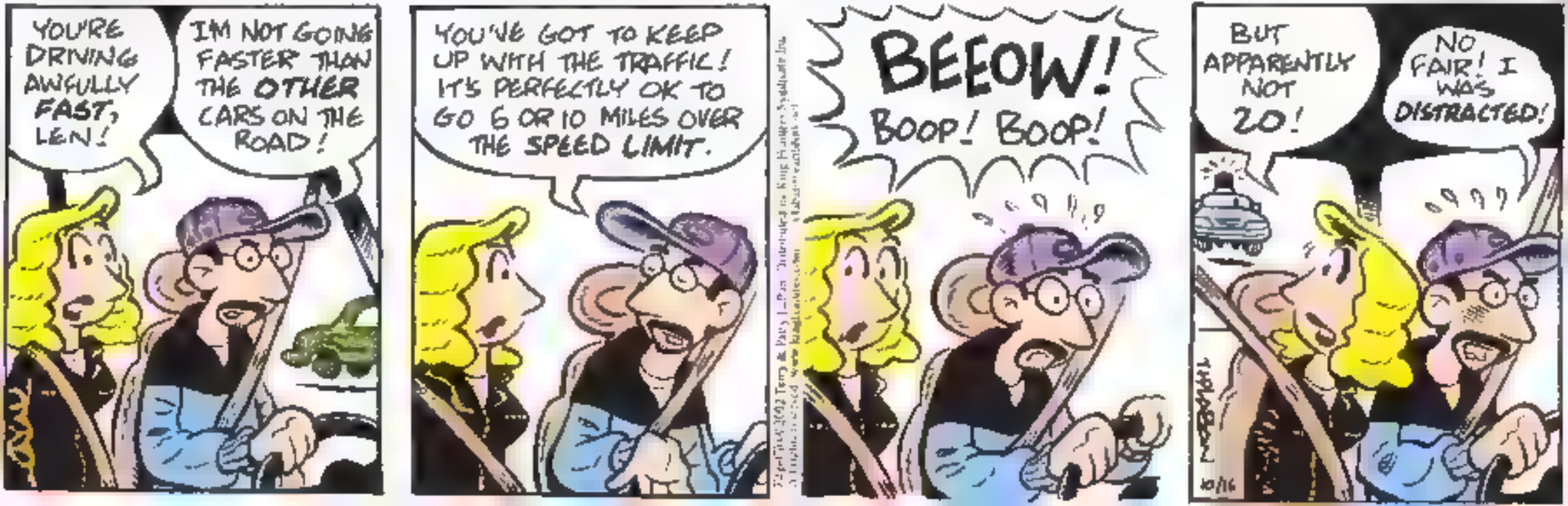

HA HA...AND ABBY'S ALWAYS DOING STUFF LIKE THAT!
LEN'S EVEN WORSE! I REMEMBER ONE TIME...

US!


SORRY YOU HAD TO SUFFER THROUGH ONE OF ABBY'S EXPERIMENTS IN MATCHMAKING, RAJIV!
THAT'S OK, LEN. I ENDED UP HAVING A GOOD TIME.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, MELANIE AND I ARE GOING OUT THIS WEEKEND.
REALLY? I'M SURPRISED!
10/12
YOU SAID YOU TWO HAD NOTHING IN COMMON AND COULD BARELY MAKE CONVERSATION.
TRUE. BUT BESIDES THAT, I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF POTENTIAL!


DO YOU WANT TO DRIVE OR SHOULD I?
YOU GO AHEAD.
10/14
YOU ALWAYS ASK ME TO DRIVE, AND THEN YOU FREAK OUT OVER THE WAY I'M DOING IT.
JUST BE REASONABLE, AND I WON'T SAY A WORD.
LEN! WATCH IT!
VOOM!
ABBY, I HAVEN'T EVEN PUT THE CAR IN "DRIVE"!
WELL, DO YOU HAVE TO REV THE ENGINE LIKE THAT?
TOM LABBAN


LEN, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST!
C'MON, ABBY! I'M JUST A COUPLE OF MILES OVER THE LIMIT!
10/15
A COUPLE? YOU MEAN MORE LIKE 15!
LOOK, I WISH YOU'D STOP BACK-SEAT DRIVING! IT'S REALLY DISTRACTING ME!
SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I'M IN FEAR FOR MY LIFE.
YOU MIGHT TRY PRAYING SILENTLY FOR A WHILE.

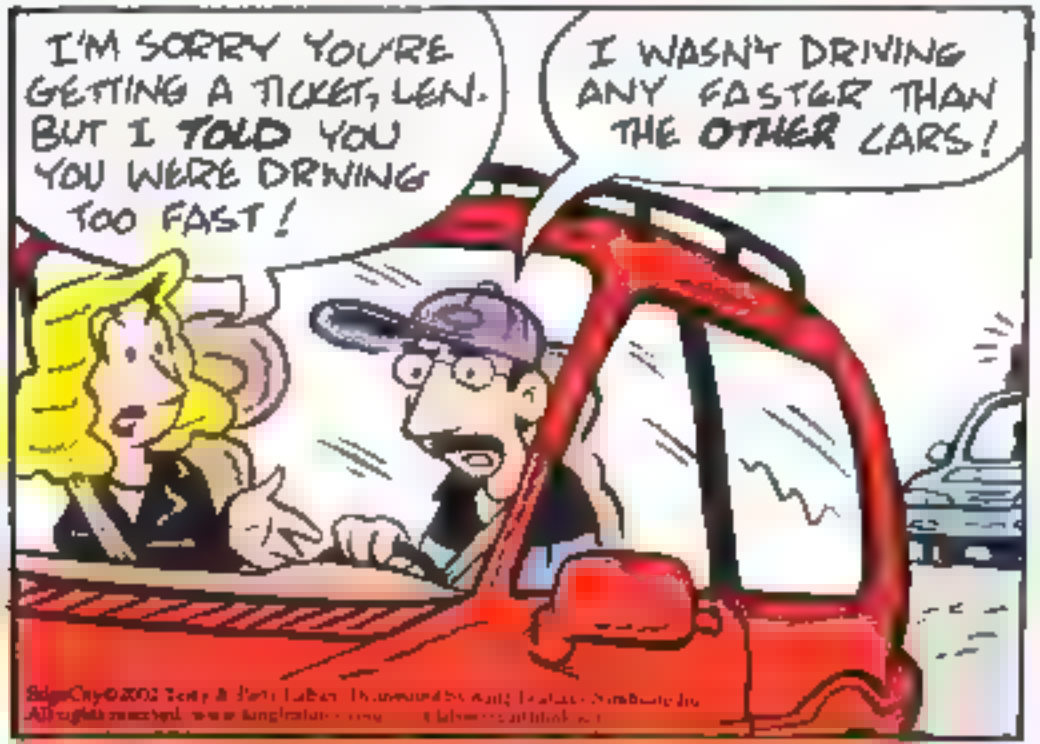

YOU'RE DRIVING AWFULLY FAST, LEN!
I'M NOT GOING FASTER THAN THE OTHER CARS ON THE ROAD!
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC! IT'S PERFECTLY OK TO GO 6 OR 10 MILES OVER THE SPEED LIMIT.
BEEOW!
BOOP! BOOP!
BUT APPARENTLY NOT 20!
NO FAIR! I WAS DISTRACTED!

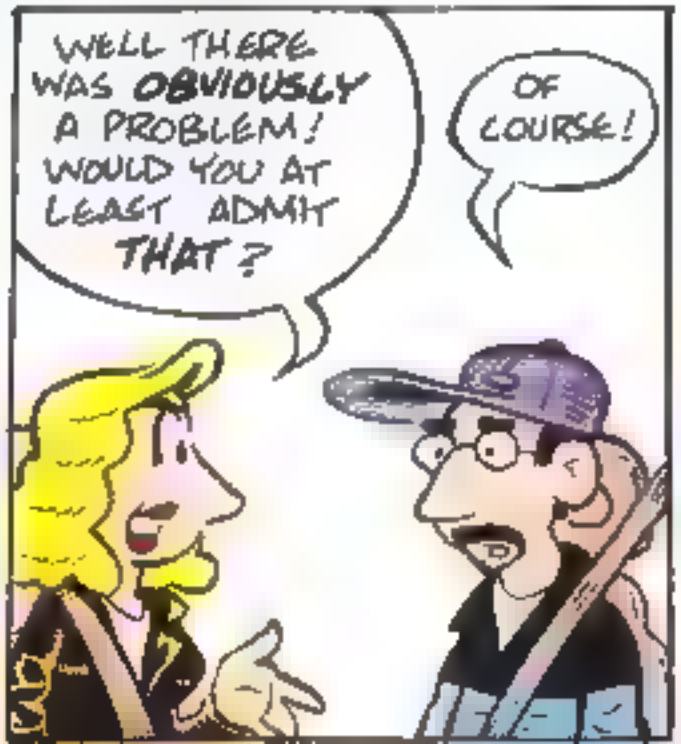
OH, BOY! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF A TICKET!
MAYBE NOT. IF YOU SCHMOOZE WITH THEM A LITTLE, A LOT OF COPS WILL LET YOU OFF.

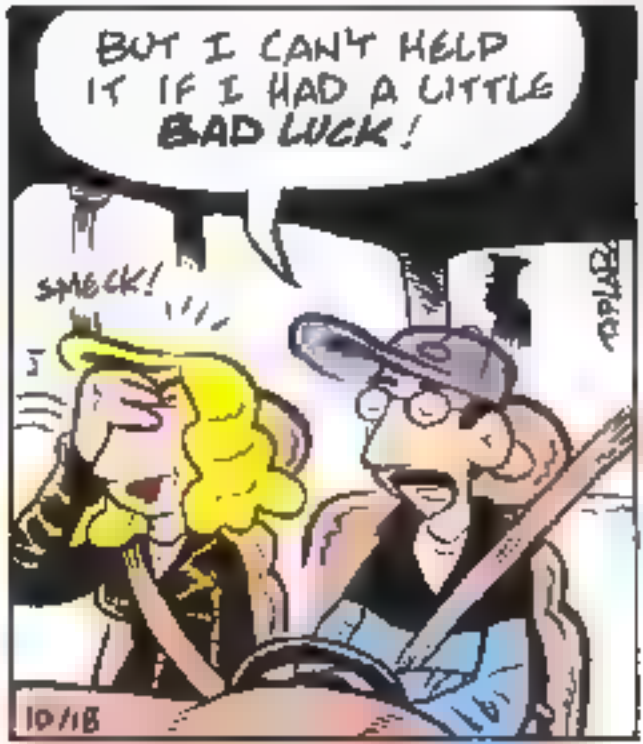
DID YOU KNOW YOU WERE GOING 20 MILES OVER THE SPEED LIMIT?
WELL, Y'SEE SIR... I GOT MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED 'CUZ MY WIFE WAS NAGGING ME.

HA HA... I'M IN TROUBLE IF I LISTEN TO HER AND IN TROUBLE IF I DON'T.
HEH.. MY WIFE IS THE SAME WAY.

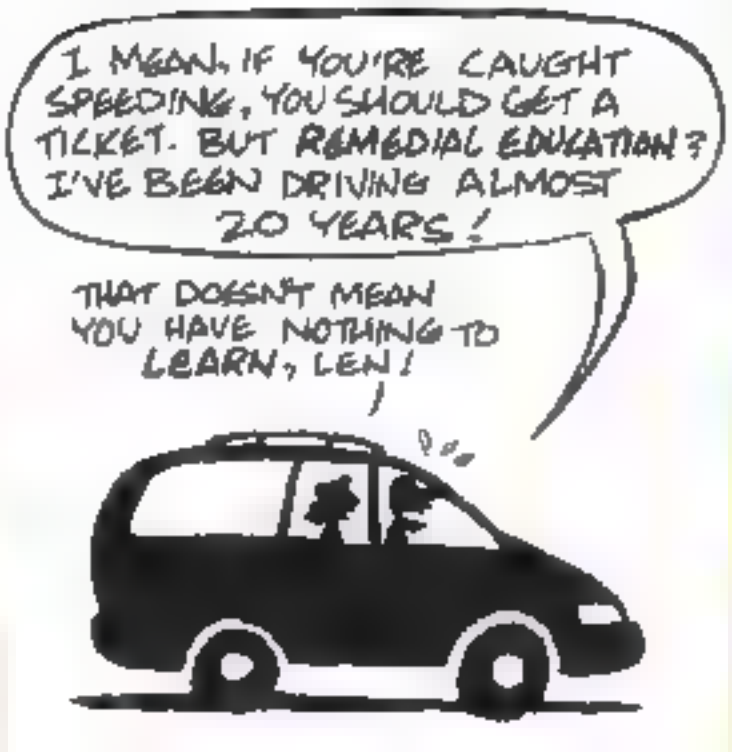
YOUR LICENSE, PLEASE.
BUT...CHOKE!... OFFICER!
C'MON, LEN--IF MALE BONDING DIDN'T WORK, IT WON'T HELP TO CRY!

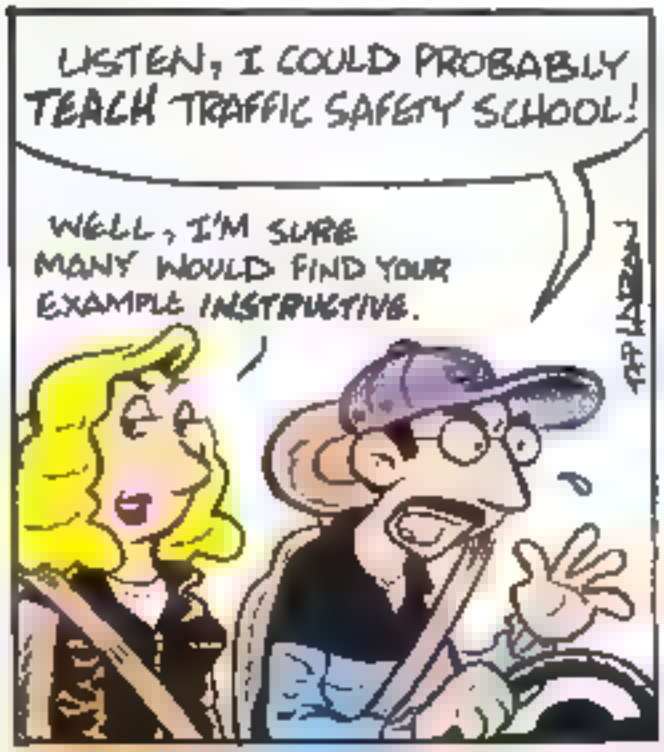

I'M SORRY YOU'RE GETTING A TICKET, LEN. BUT I TOLD YOU YOU WERE DRIVING TOO FAST!
I WASN'T DRIVING ANY FASTER THAN THE OTHER CARS!

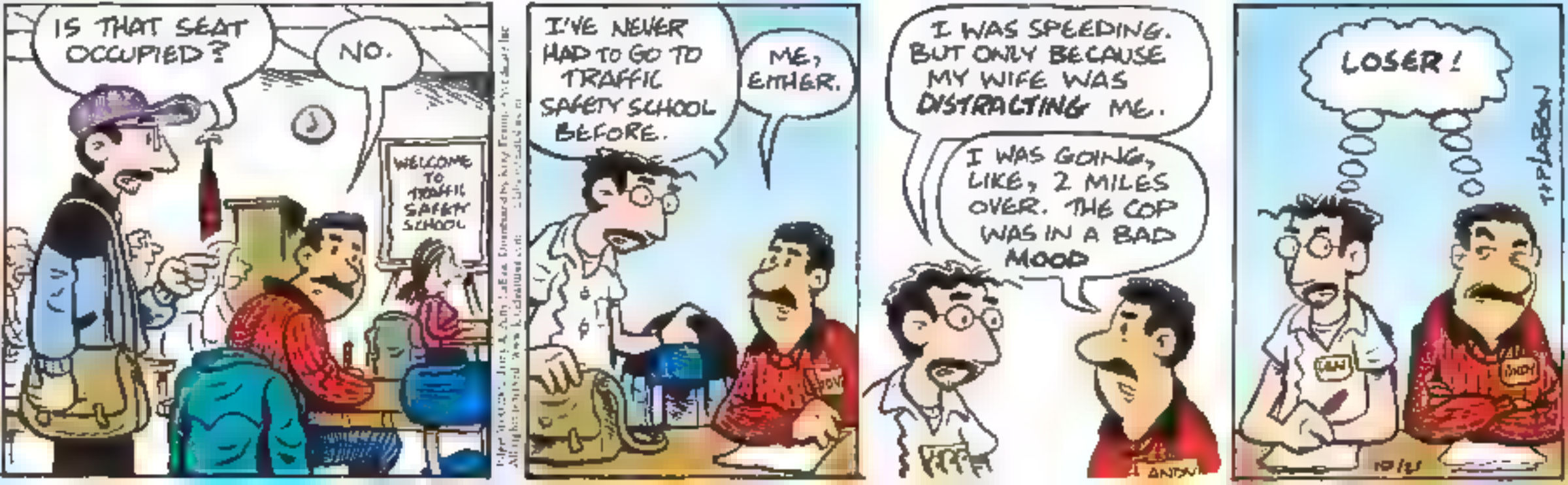

WELL THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY A PROBLEM! WOULD YOU AT LEAST ADMIT THAT?
OF COURSE!

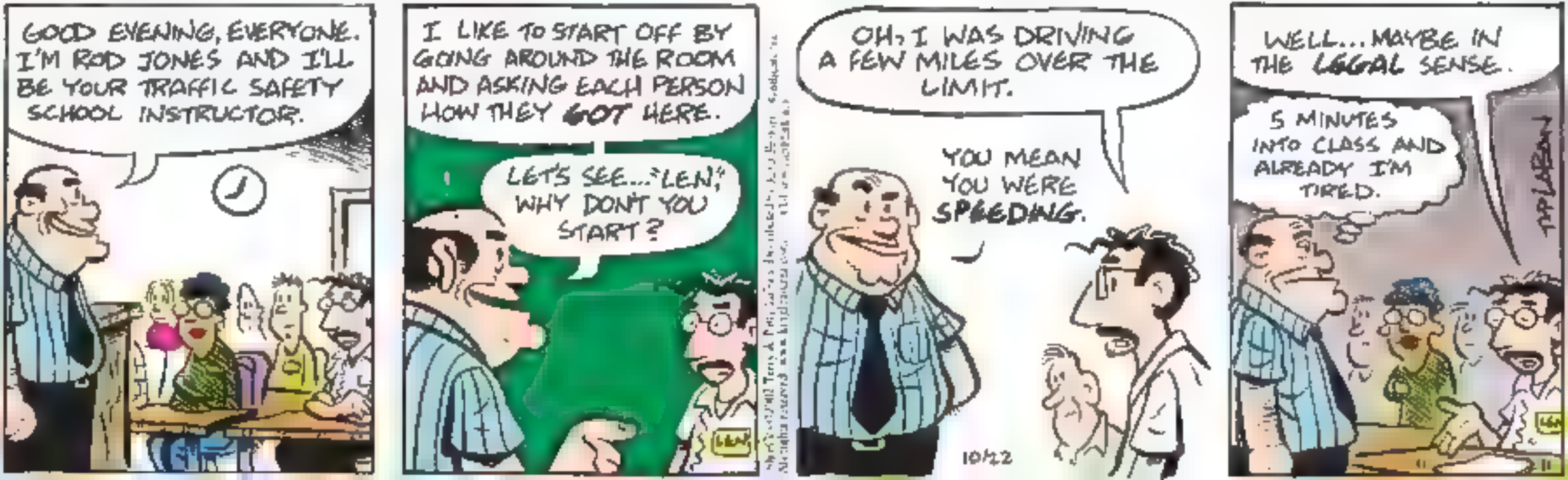

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT IF I HAD A LITTLE BAD LUCK!
SMACK!
10/18

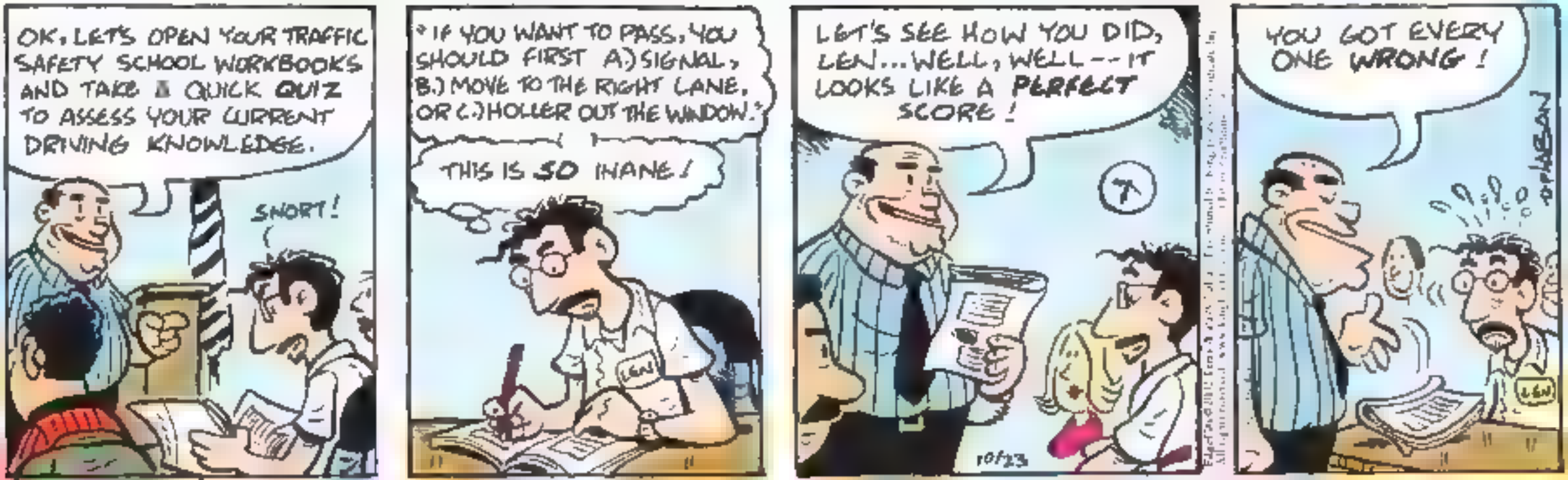
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NOT ONLY DO I HAVE TO PAY A $125 FINE, I ALSO HAVE TO GO TO TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL!
10/31

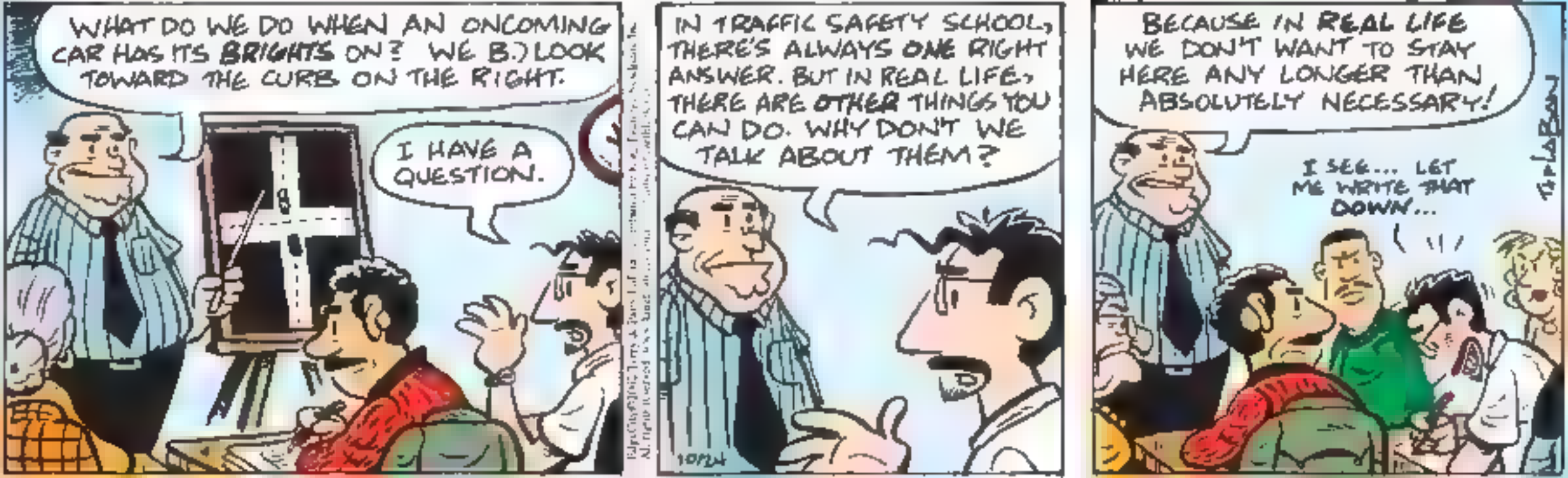

I MEAN, IF YOU'RE CAUGHT SPEEDING, YOU SHOULD GET A TICKET. BUT REMEDIAL EDUCATION? I'VE BEEN DRIVING ALMOST 20 YEARS!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LEARN, LEN!

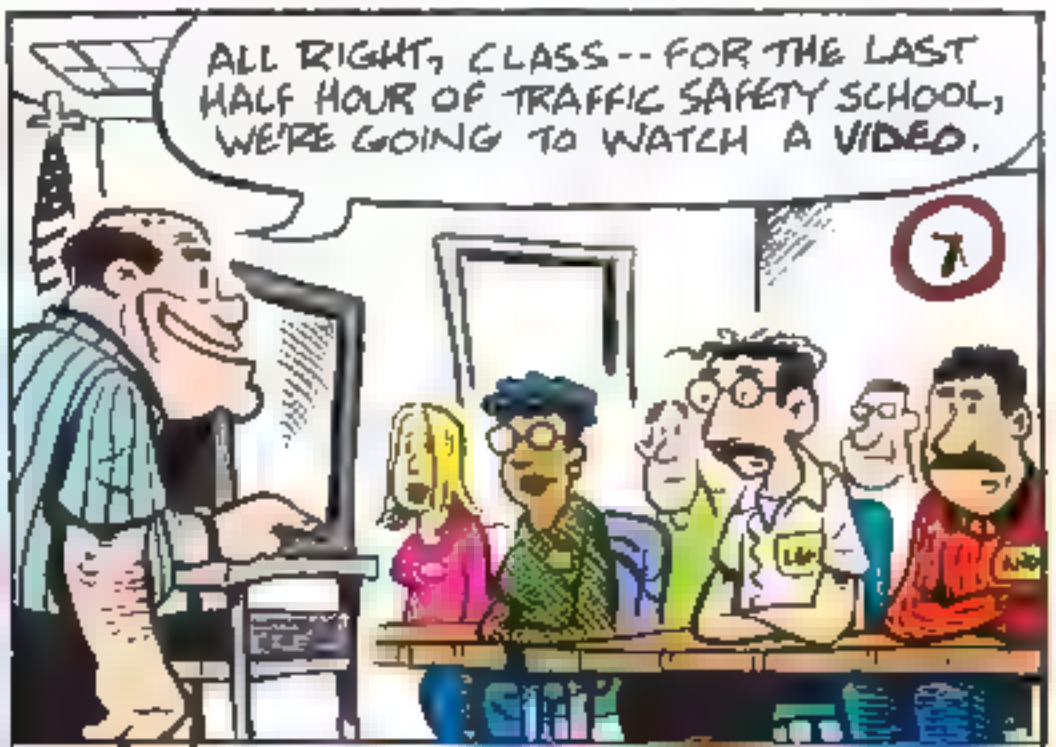

LISTEN, I COULD PROBABLY TEACH TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL!
WELL, I'M SURE MANY WOULD FIND YOUR EXAMPLE INSTRUCTIVE.


IS THAT SEAT OCCUPIED?
NO.
WELCOME TO TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL
I'VE NEVER HAD TO GO TO TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL BEFORE.
ME, EITHER.
I WAS SPEEDING. BUT ONLY BECAUSE MY WIFE WAS DISTRACTING ME.
I WAS GOING, LIKE, 2 MILES OVER. THE COP WAS IN A BAD MOOD
LOSER!

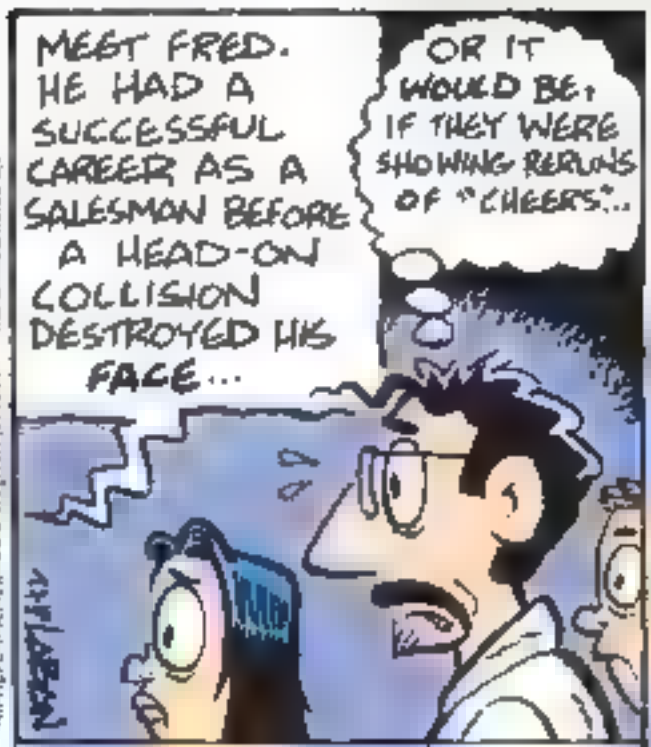

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. I'M ROD JONES AND I'LL BE YOUR TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR.
I LIKE TO START OFF BY GOING AROUND THE ROOM AND ASKING EACH PERSON HOW THEY GOT HERE.
LET'S SEE... "LEN," WHY DON'T YOU START?
OH, I WAS DRIVING A FEW MILES OVER THE LIMIT.
YOU MEAN YOU WERE SPEEDING.
10/22
WELL... MAYBE IN THE LEGAL SENSE.
5 MINUTES INTO CLASS AND ALREADY I'M TIRED.

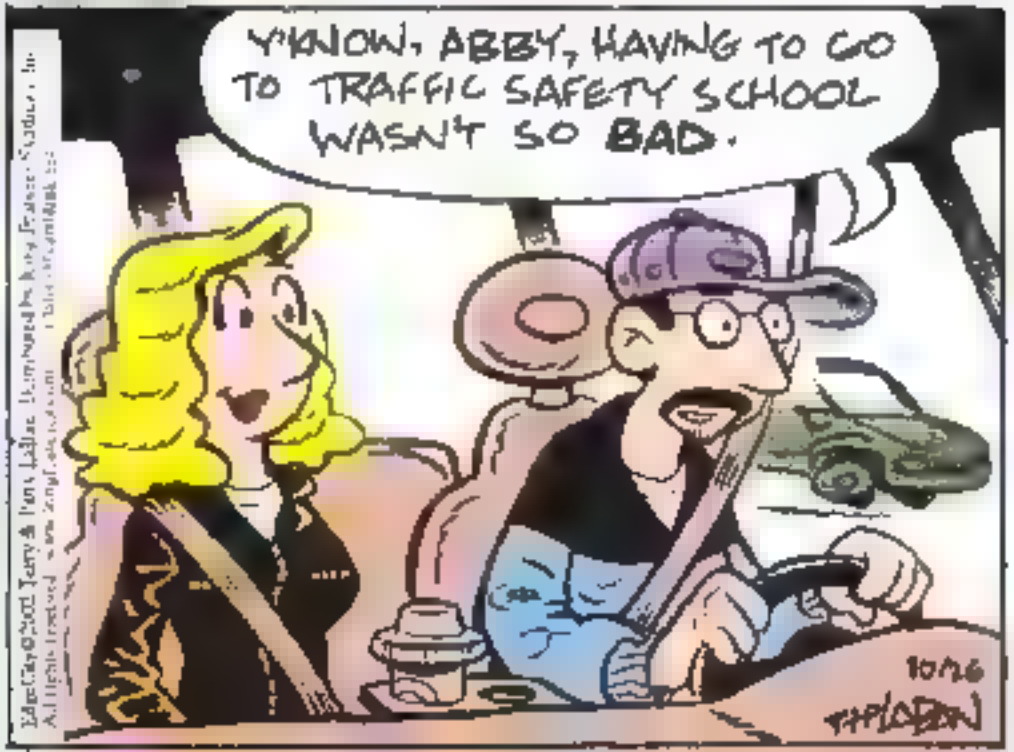

OK, LET'S OPEN YOUR TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL WORKBOOKS AND TAKE A QUICK QUIZ TO ASSESS YOUR CURRENT DRIVING KNOWLEDGE.
SNORT!
"IF YOU WANT TO PASS, YOU SHOULD FIRST A.) SIGNAL, B.) MOVE TO THE RIGHT LANE, OR C.) HOLLER OUT THE WINDOW."
THIS IS SO INANE!
LEN
LET'S SEE HOW YOU DID, LEN... WELL, WELL -- IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT SCORE!
10/23
YOU GOT EVERY ONE WRONG!
LEN


WHAT DO WE DO WHEN AN ONCOMING CAR HAS ITS BRIGHTS ON? WE B.) LOOK TOWARD THE CURB ON THE RIGHT.
I HAVE A QUESTION.
IN TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL, THERE'S ALWAYS ONE RIGHT ANSWER. BUT IN REAL LIFE, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO. WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT THEM?
BECAUSE IN REAL LIFE WE DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
I SEE... LET ME WRITE THAT DOWN...

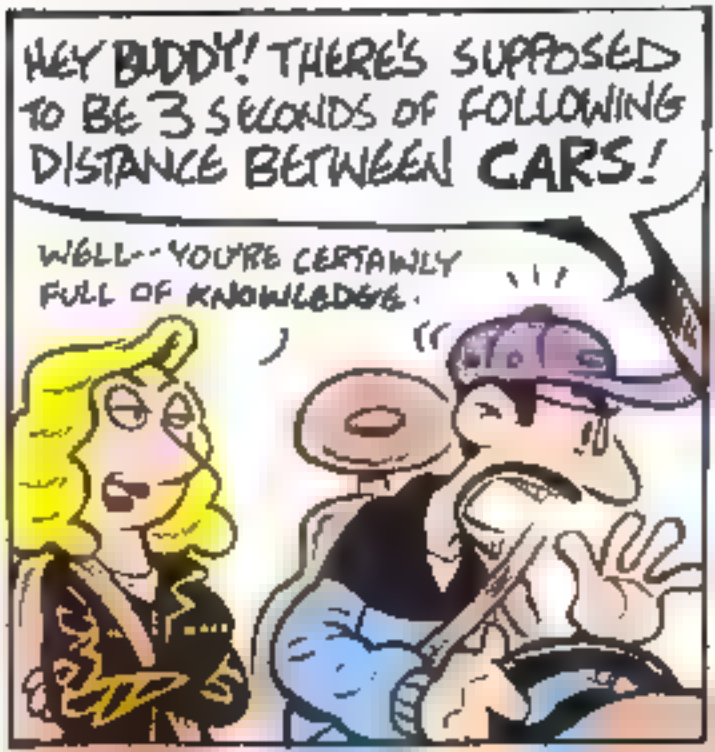

ALL RIGHT, CLASS -- FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR OF TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL, WE'RE GOING TO WATCH A VIDEO.

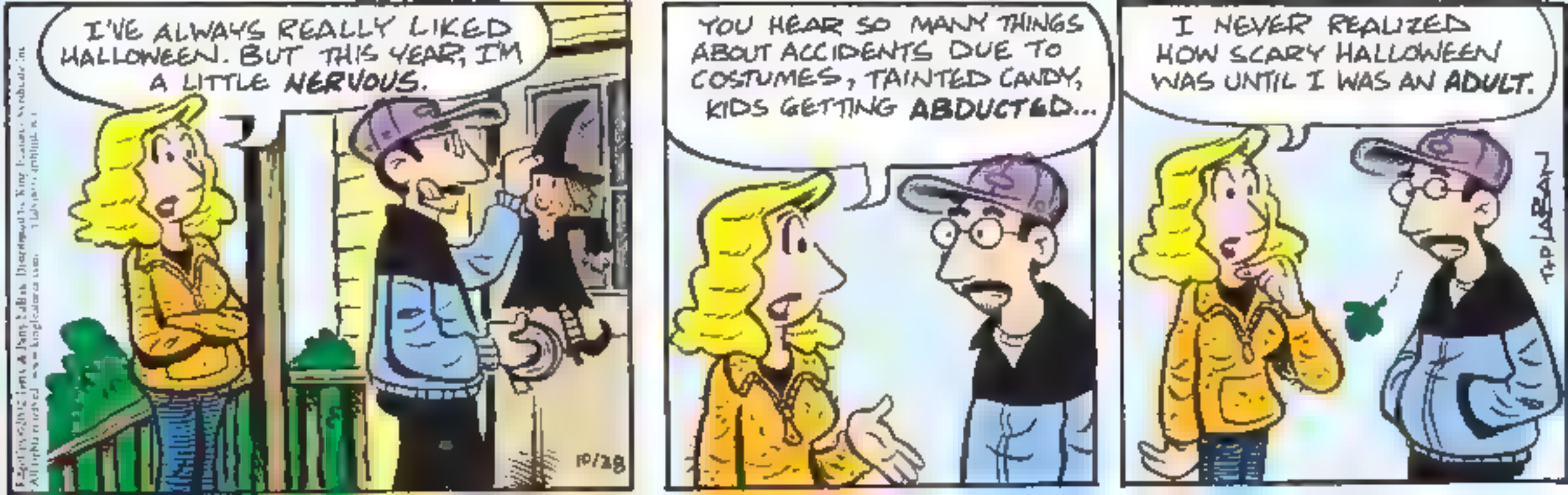
THAT'S COOL. AFTER 3 HOURS OF LISTENING TO THAT GUY DRONE ON, IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO WATCH SOME TV.
ACCIDENTS CAN HURT YOU
10/25

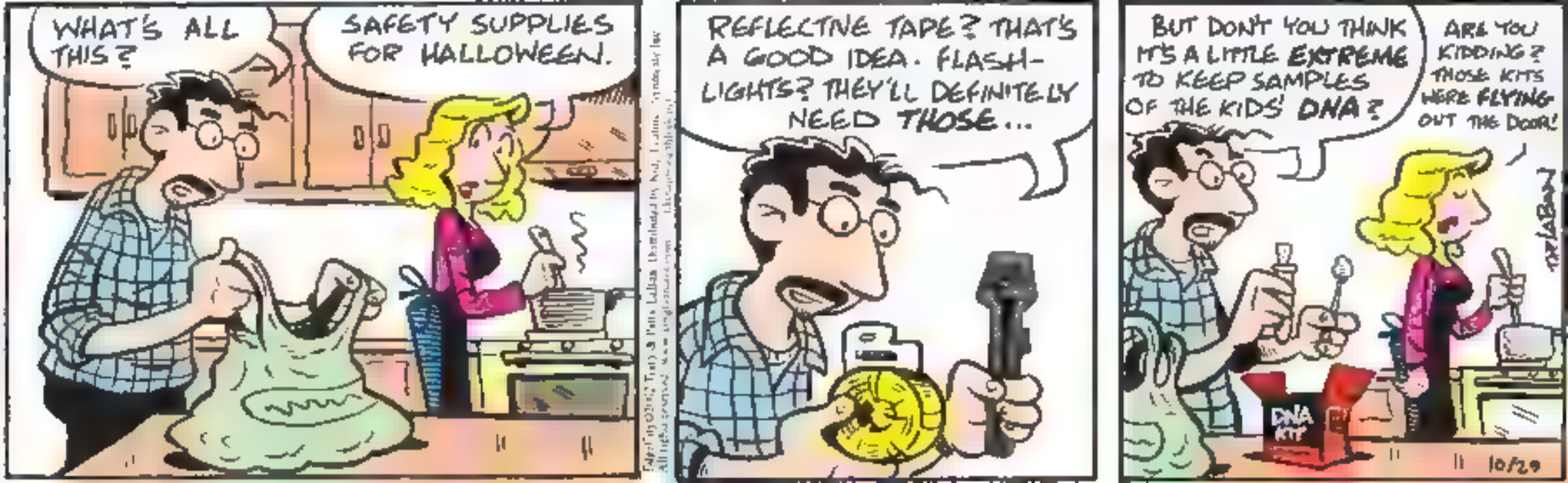

MEET FRED. HE HAD A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A SALESMAN BEFORE A HEAD-ON COLLISION DESTROYED HIS FACE...
OR IT WOULD BE, IF THEY WERE SHOWING RERUNS OF "CHEERS"...

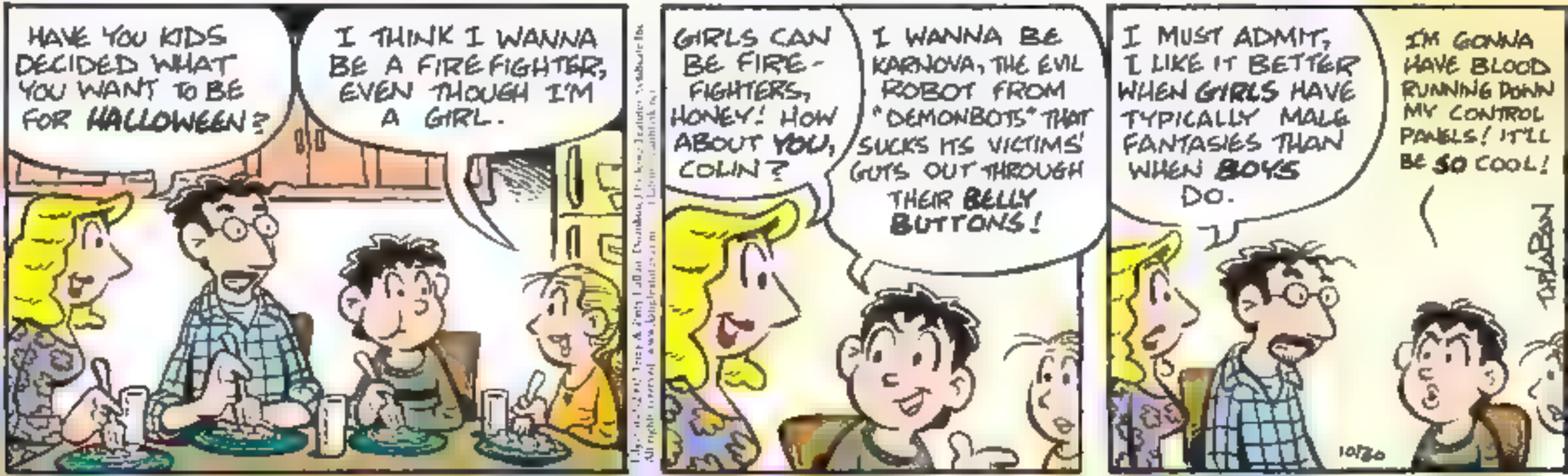

Y'KNOW, ABBY, HAVING TO GO TO TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOOL WASN'T SO BAD.
10/26
THPLOBEN

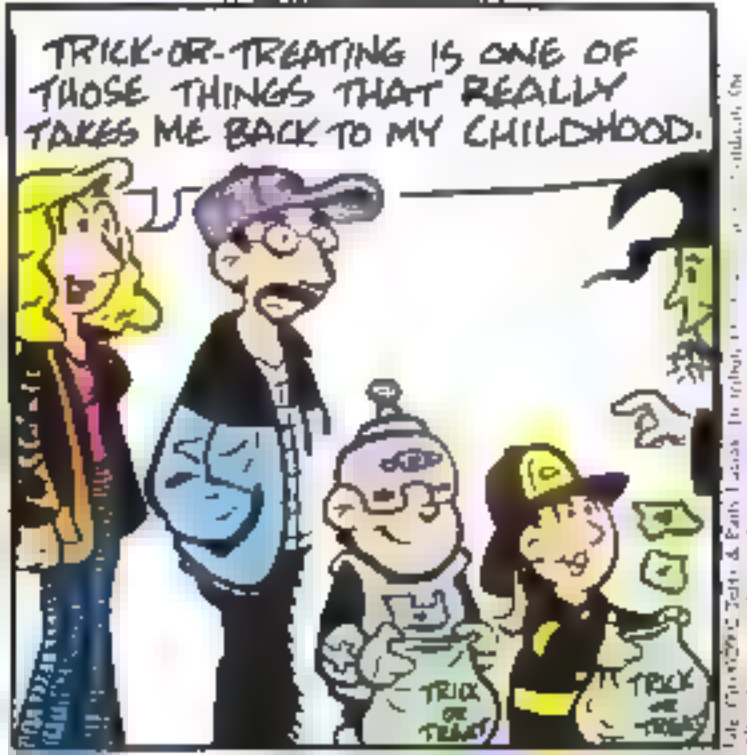
AS IT TURNED OUT, I DID LEARN SOME THINGS. I THINK I'M A BETTER DRIVER NOW.
HONK!


HEY BUDDY! THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE 3 SECONDS OF FOLLOWING DISTANCE BETWEEN CARS!
WELL-- YOU'RE CERTAINLY FULL OF KNOWLEDGE.

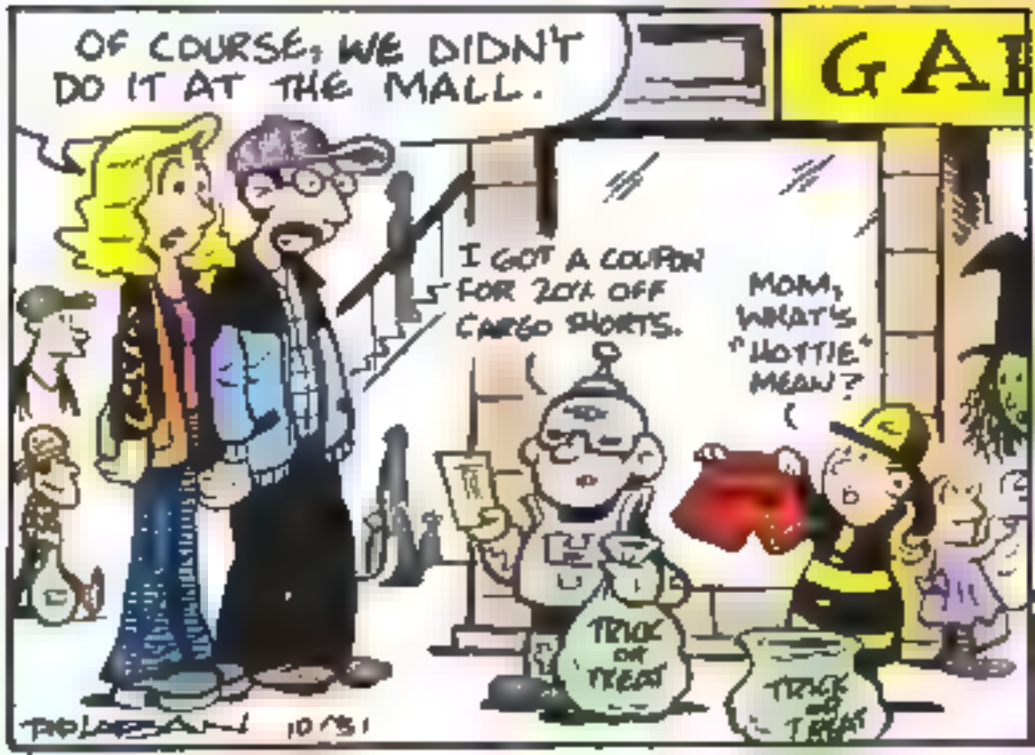

I'VE ALWAYS REALLY LIKED HALLOWEEN. BUT THIS YEAR, I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS.
10/28
YOU HEAR SO MANY THINGS ABOUT ACCIDENTS DUE TO COSTUMES, TAINTED CANDY, KIDS GETTING ABDUCTED...
I NEVER REALIZED HOW SCARY HALLOWEEN WAS UNTIL I WAS AN ADULT.
TOP LABAN

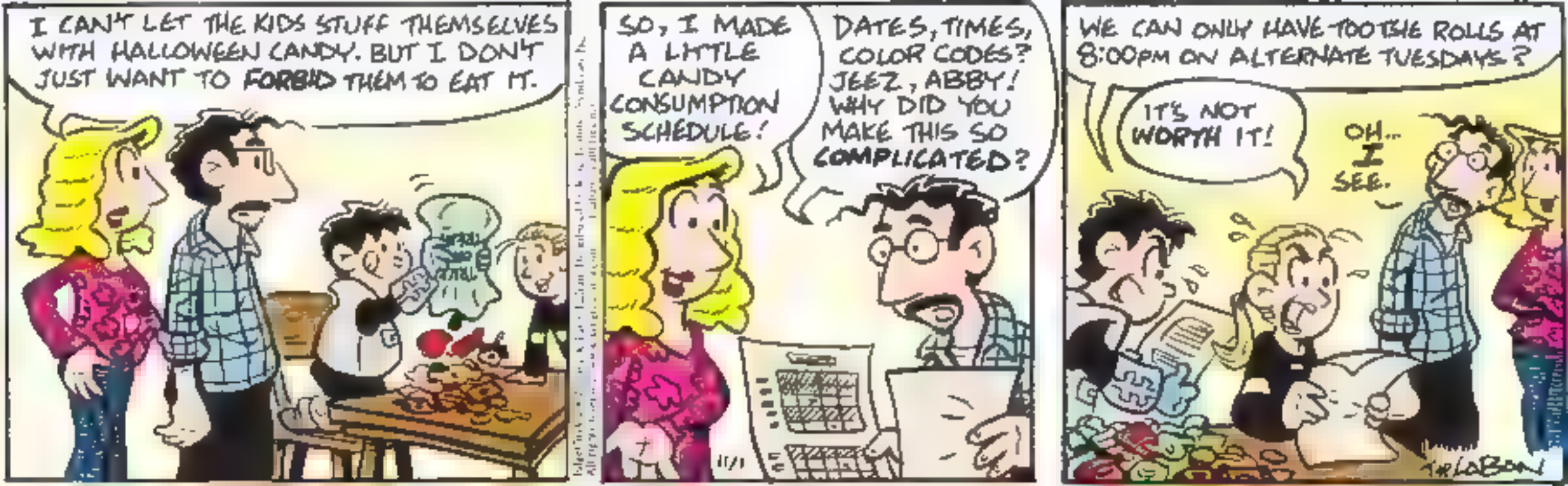

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
SAFETY SUPPLIES FOR HALLOWEEN.
REFLECTIVE TAPE? THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. FLASH-LIGHTS? THEY'LL DEFINITELY NEED THOSE...
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE EXTREME TO KEEP SAMPLES OF THE KIDS' DNA?
ARE YOU KIDDING? THOSE KITS WERE FLYING OUT THE DOOR!
DNA KIT
10/29

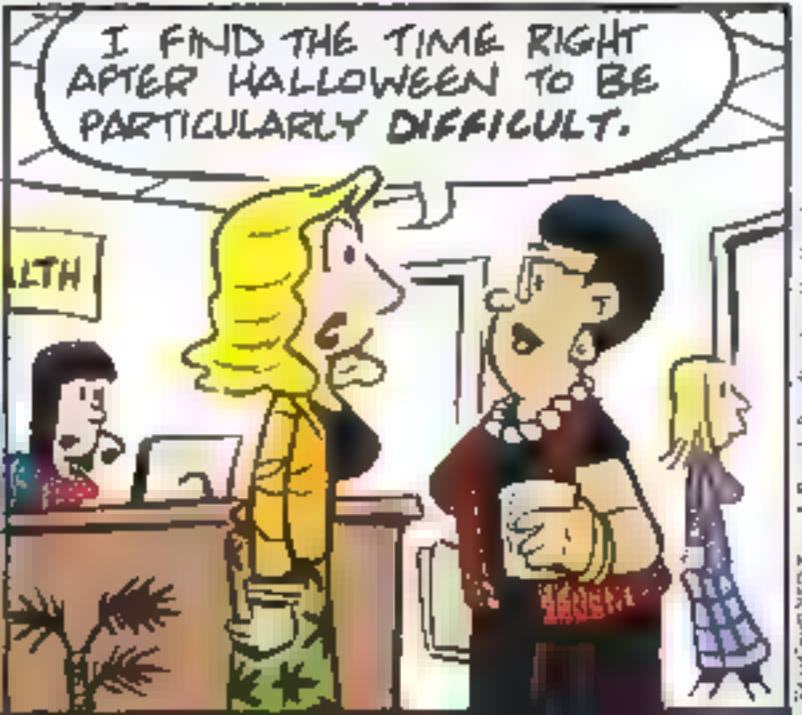

HAVE YOU KIDS DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN?
I THINK I WANNA BE A FIREFIGHTER, EVEN THOUGH I'M A GIRL.
GIRLS CAN BE FIRE-FIGHTERS, HONEY! HOW ABOUT YOU, COLIN?
I WANNA BE KARNOVA, THE EVIL ROBOT FROM "DEMONBOTS" THAT SUCKS ITS VICTIMS' GUTS OUT THROUGH THEIR BELLY BUTTONS!
I MUST ADMIT, I LIKE IT BETTER WHEN GIRLS HAVE TYPICALLY MALE FANTASIES THAN WHEN BOYS DO.
I'M GONNA HAVE BLOOD RUNNING DOWN MY CONTROL PANELS! IT'LL BE SO COOL!
10/30


TRICK-OR-TREATING IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT REALLY TAKES ME BACK TO MY CHILDHOOD.
TRICK OR TREAT
TRICK OR TREAT

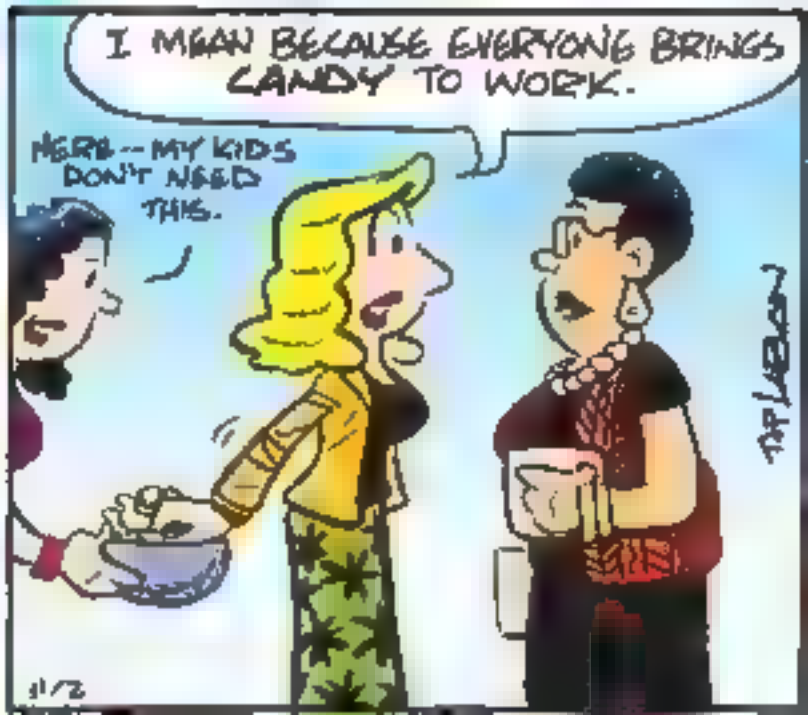
THE CROWDS OF COSTUMED KIDS, THE SACKS OF TREATS, EVERYONE ALL HAPPY AND EXCITED...

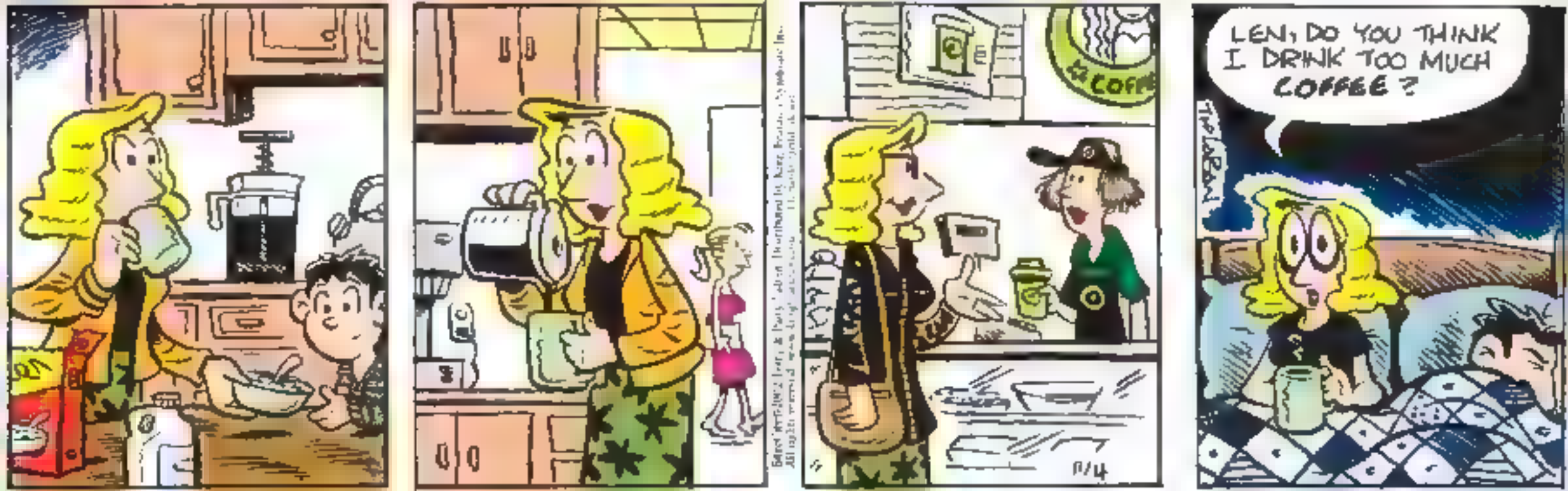

OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T DO IT AT THE MALL.
I GOT A COUPON FOR 20% OFF CARGO SHORTS.
MOM, WHAT'S "HOTTIE" MEAN?
TRICK OR TREAT
TRICK OR TREAT
10/31

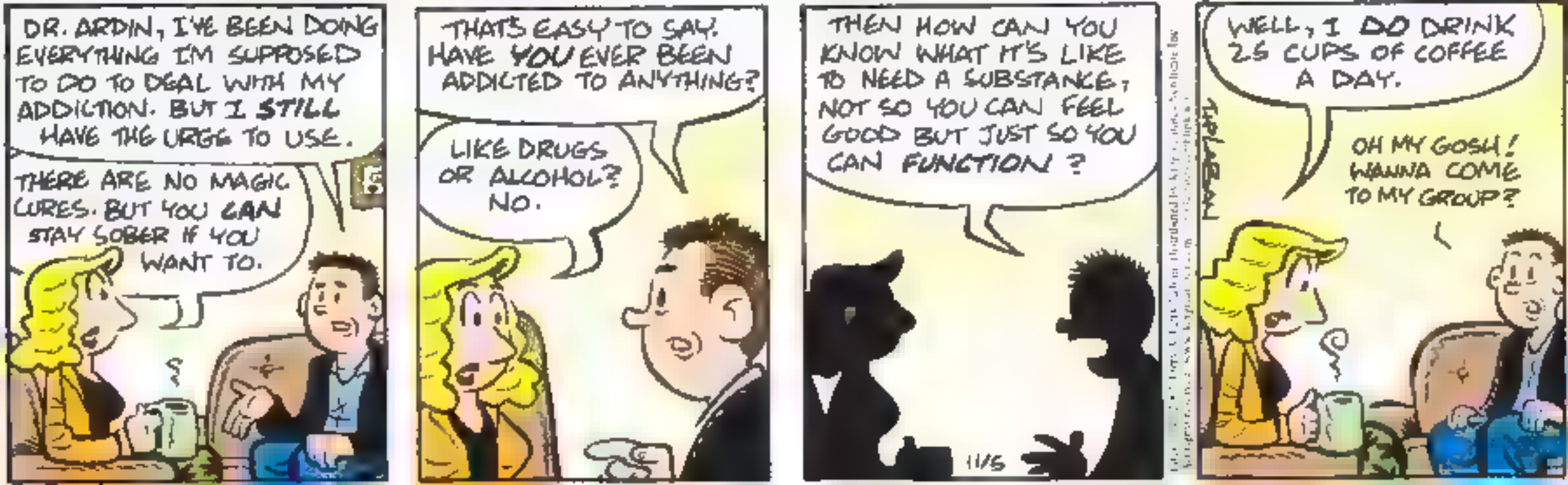

I CAN'T LET THE KIDS STUFF THEMSELVES WITH HALLOWEEN CANDY. BUT I DON'T JUST WANT TO FORBID THEM TO EAT IT.
SO, I MADE A LITTLE CANDY CONSUMPTION SCHEDULE!
DATES, TIMES, COLOR CODES? JEEZ, ABBY! WHY DID YOU MAKE THIS SO COMPLICATED?
WE CAN ONLY HAVE TOOTSIE ROLLS AT 8:00PM ON ALTERNATE TUESDAYS?
IT'S NOT WORTH IT!
OH... I SEE.

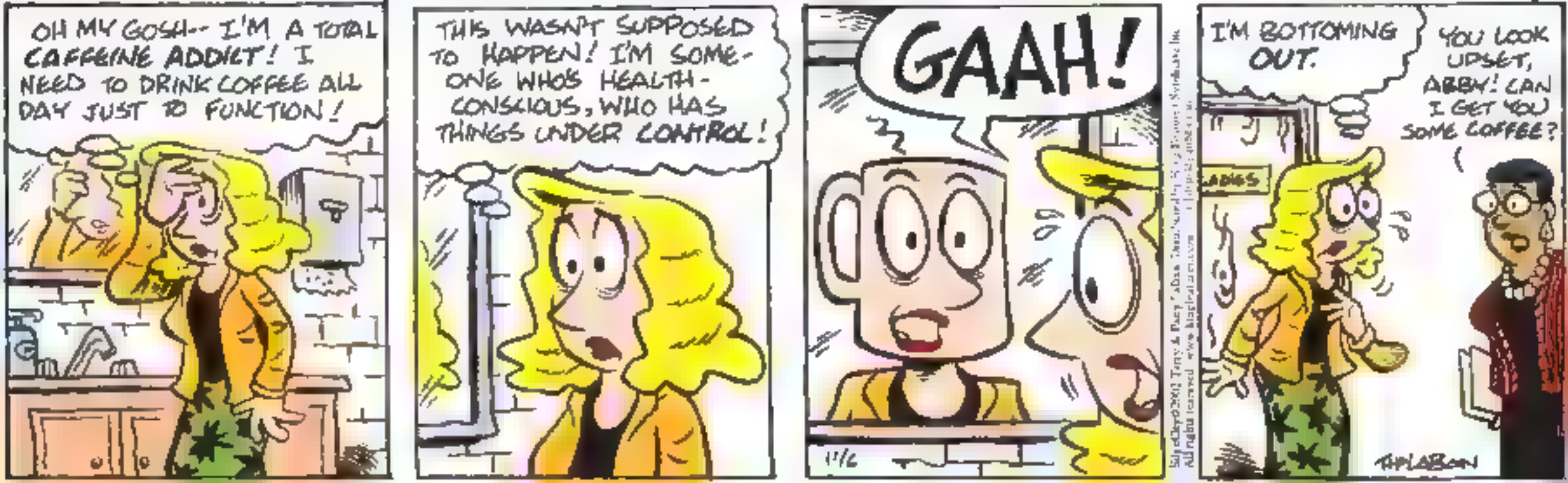

I FIND THE TIME RIGHT AFTER HALLOWEEN TO BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT.
LTH

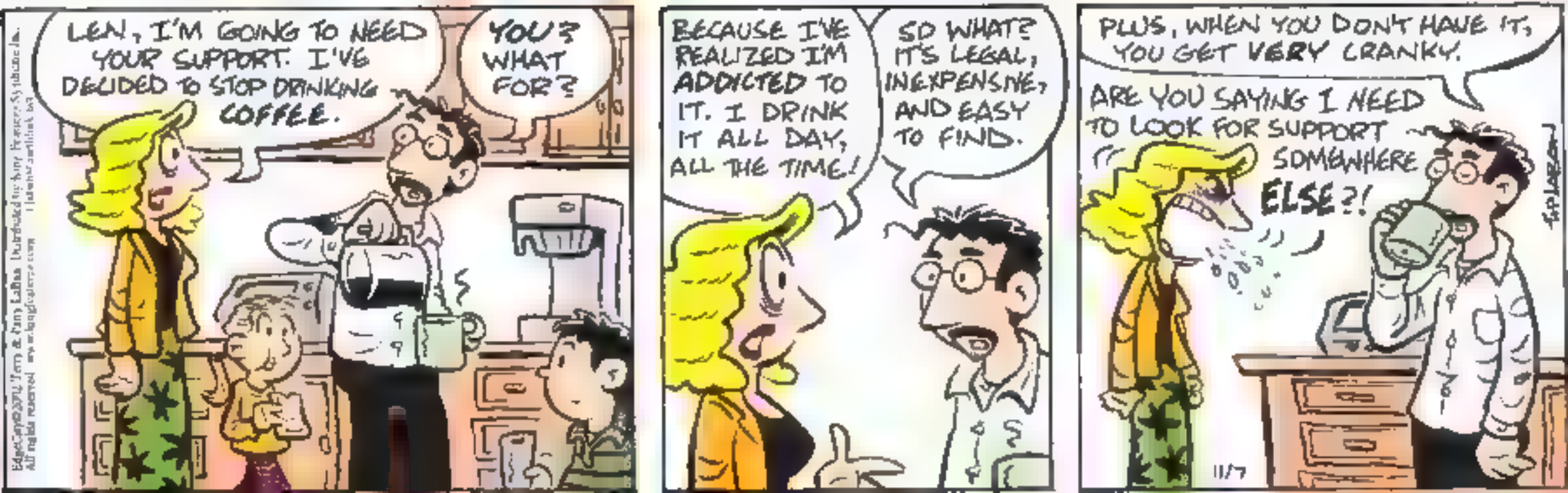
YOU MEAN BECAUSE THIS IS WHEN IT REALLY STARTS TO GET DARK, COLD AND DREARY?

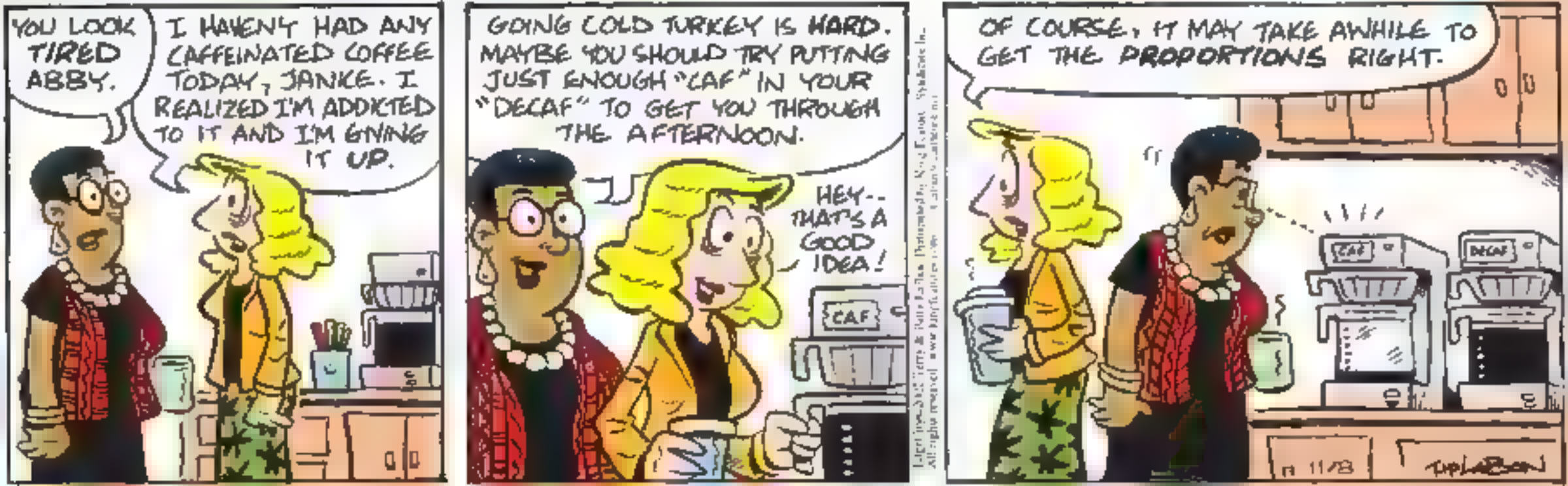

I MEAN BECAUSE EVERYONE BRINGS CANDY TO WORK.
NERB -- MY KIDS DON'T NEED THIS.


LEN, DO YOU THINK I DRINK TOO MUCH COFFEE ?
TIM LAUGHAN

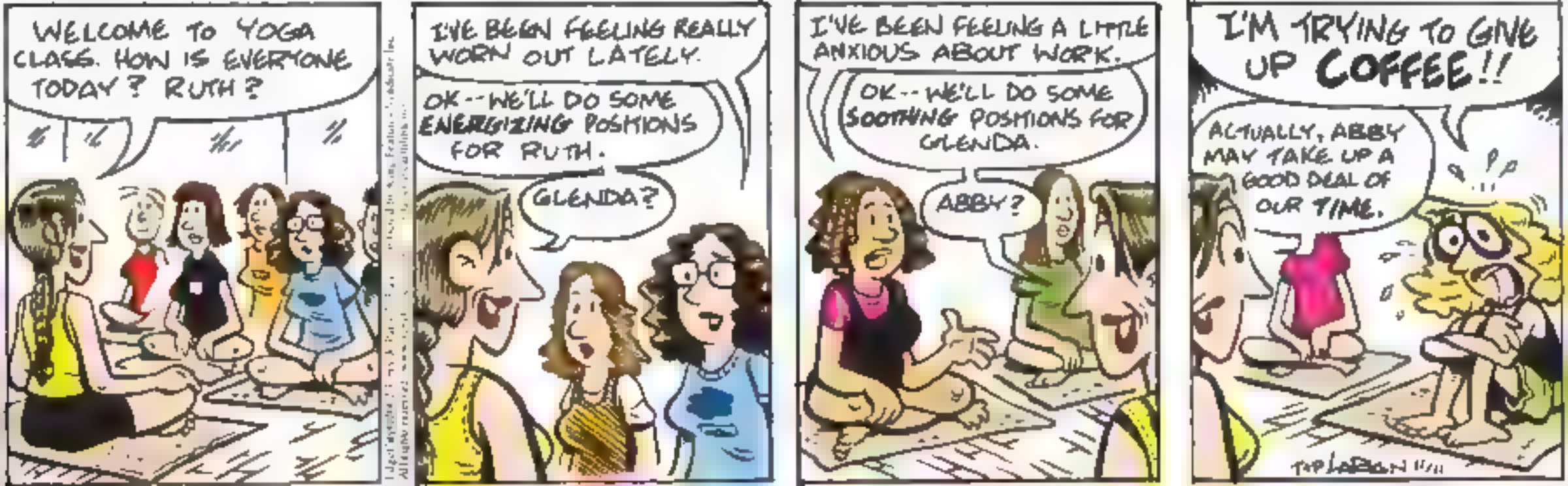

DR. ARDIN, I'VE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING I'M SUPPOSED TO DO TO DEAL WITH MY ADDICTION. BUT I STILL HAVE THE URGE TO USE.
THERE ARE NO MAGIC CURES. BUT YOU CAN STAY SOBER IF YOU WANT TO.
THAT'S EASY TO SAY. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ADDICTED TO ANYTHING?
LIKE DRUGS OR ALCOHOL? NO.
THEN HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NEED A SUBSTANCE, NOT SO YOU CAN FEEL GOOD BUT JUST SO YOU CAN FUNCTION ?
11/5
WELL, I DO DRINK 25 CUPS OF COFFEE A DAY.
OH MY GOSH! WANNA COME TO MY GROUP?

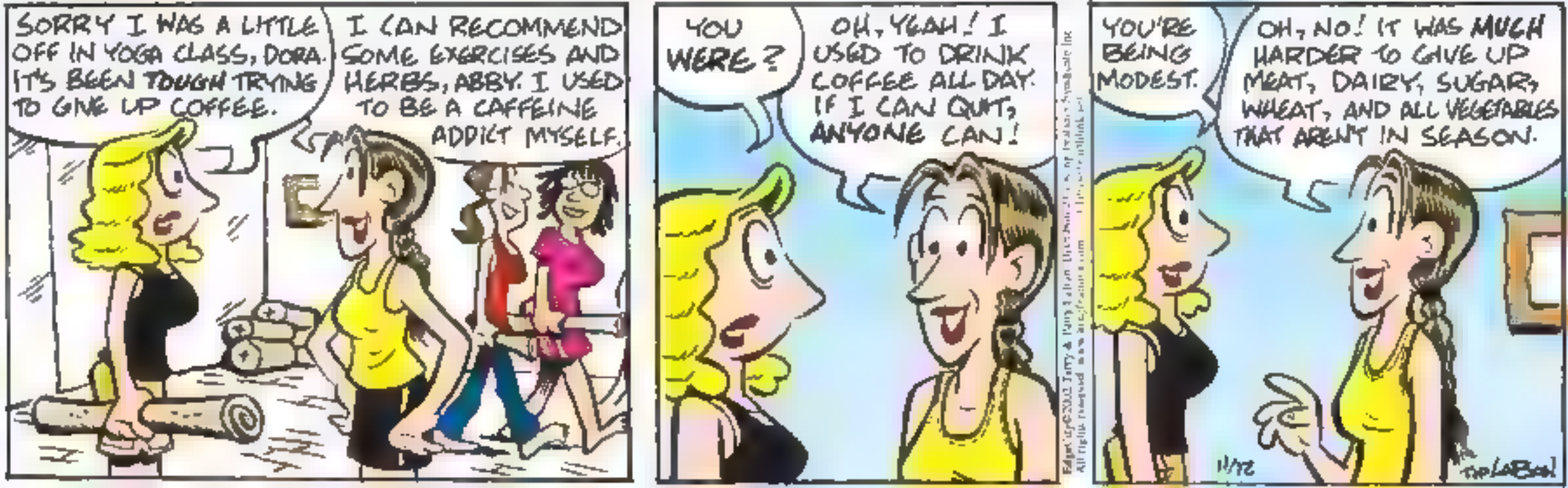

OH MY GOSH-- I'M A TOTAL CAFFEINE ADDICT! I NEED TO DRINK COFFEE ALL DAY JUST TO FUNCTION!
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN! I'M SOMEONE WHO'S HEALTH-CONSCIOUS, WHO HAS THINGS UNDER CONTROL!
GAAH!
I'M BOTTOMING OUT.
YOU LOOK UPSET, ABBY! CAN I GET YOU SOME COFFEE?
LADIES
THPLABON

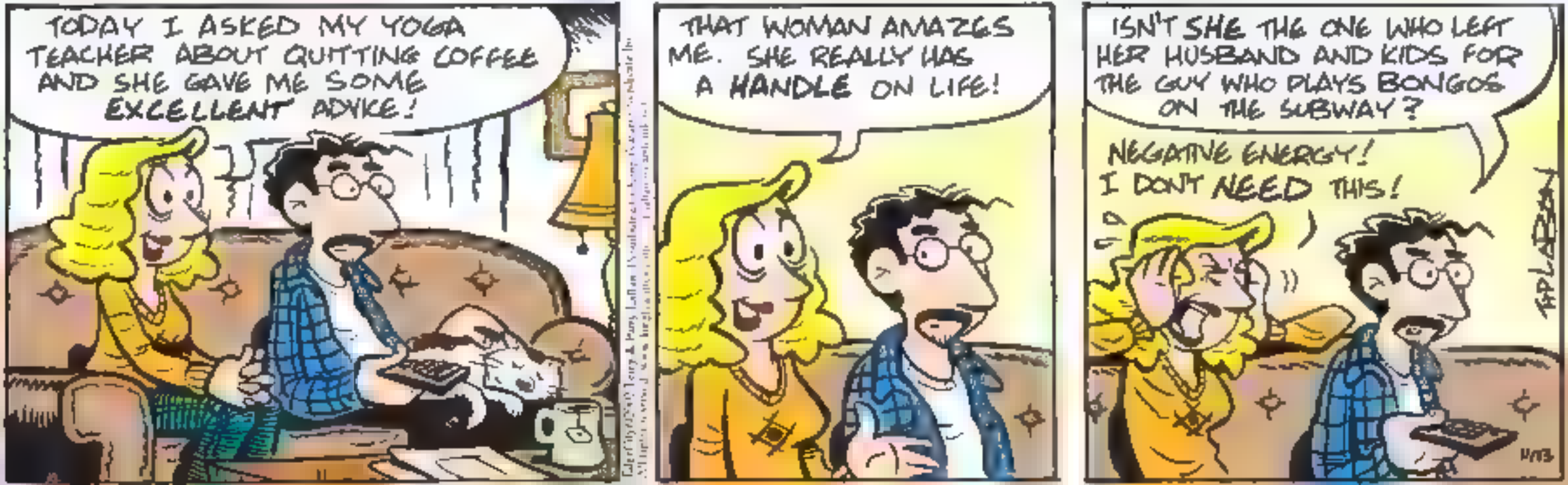

LEN, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR SUPPORT. I'VE DECIDED TO STOP DRINKING COFFEE.
YOU? WHAT FOR?
BECAUSE I'VE REALIZED I'M ADDICTED TO IT. I DRINK IT ALL DAY, ALL THE TIME!
SO WHAT? IT'S LEGAL, INEXPENSIVE, AND EASY TO FIND.
PLUS, WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE IT, YOU GET VERY CRANKY.
ARE YOU SAYING I NEED TO LOOK FOR SUPPORT SOMEWHERE ELSE?!
11/7

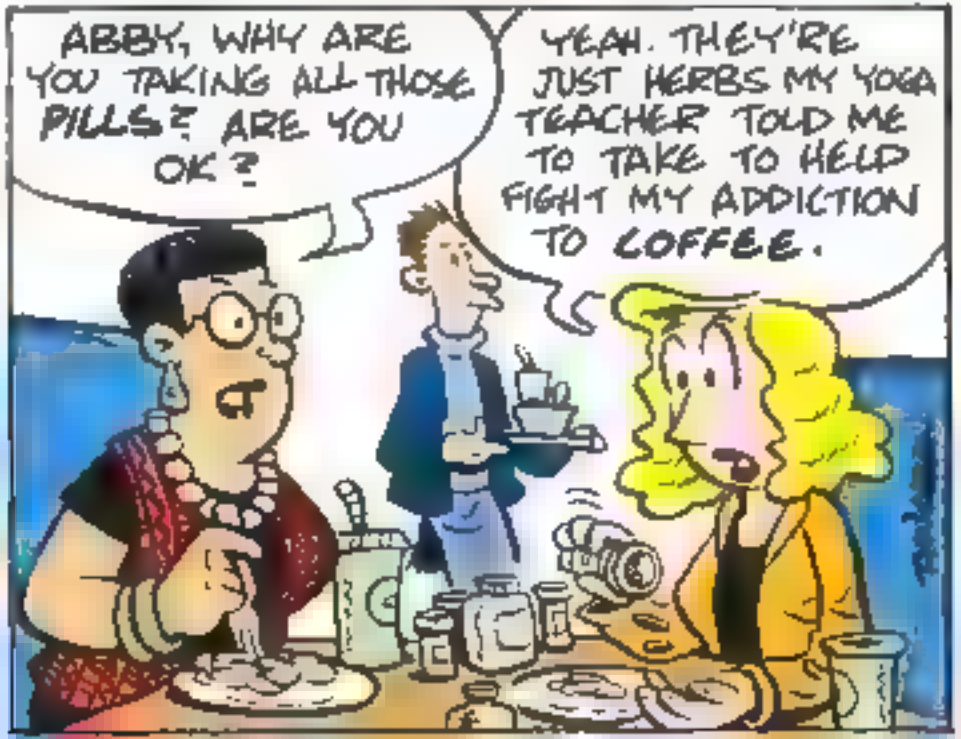

YOU LOOK TIRED ABBY.
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY CAFFEINATED COFFEE TODAY, JANICE. I REALIZED I'M ADDICTED TO IT AND I'M GIVING IT UP.
GOING COLD TURKEY IS HARD. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY PUTTING JUST ENOUGH "CAF" IN YOUR "DECAF" TO GET YOU THROUGH THE AFTERNOON.
HEY-- THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
CAF
OF COURSE, IT MAY TAKE AWHILE TO GET THE PROPORTIONS RIGHT.
CAF
DECAF
11/8

HEY, ABBY! DID YOU MAKE IT THROUGH THE DAY WITHOUT COFFEE?
YEAH. BUT BY THE TIME I GOT OUT OF WORK, I WAS EXHAUSTED AND HAD A POUNDING HEADACHE.
BUT INSTEAD OF DRINKING COFFEE I WENT TO THE GYM AND HAD A VIGOROUS WORKOUT.
GOOD FOR YOU! HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I'M EXHAUSTED, HAVE A POUNDING HEADACHE, AND MY MUSCLES ARE SORE!
11/19

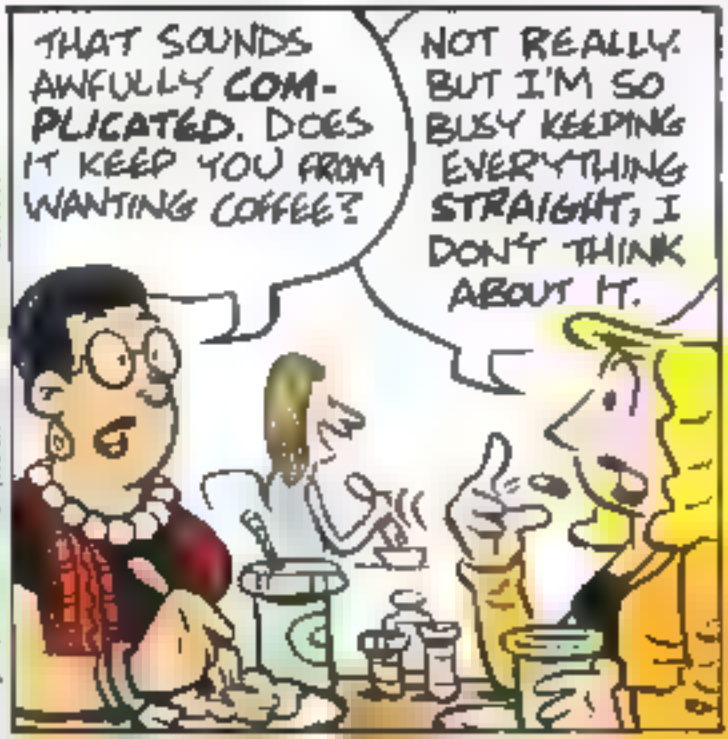

WELCOME TO YOGA CLASS. HOW IS EVERYONE TODAY? RUTH?
I'VE BEEN FEELING REALLY WORN OUT LATELY.
OK--WE'LL DO SOME ENERGIZING POSITIONS FOR RUTH.
GLENDA?
I'VE BEEN FEELING A LITTLE ANXIOUS ABOUT WORK.
OK--WE'LL DO SOME SOOTHING POSITIONS FOR GLENDA.
ABBY?
I'M TRYING TO GIVE UP COFFEE!!
ACTUALLY, ABBY MAY TAKE UP A GOOD DEAL OF OUR TIME.

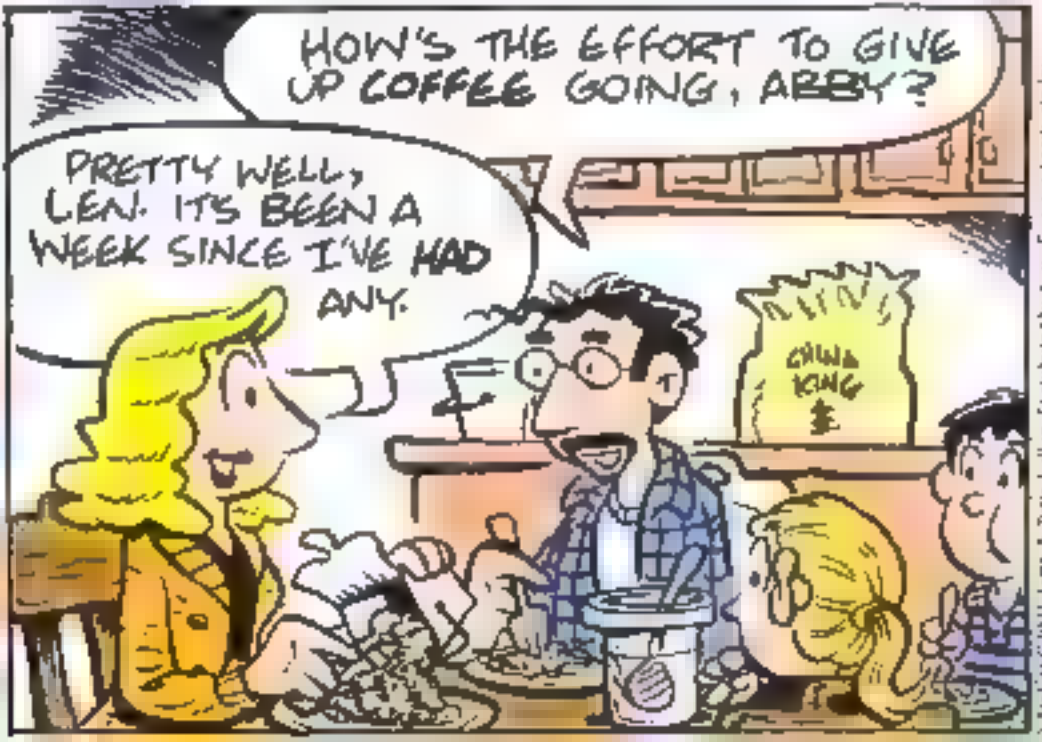

SORRY I WAS A LITTLE OFF IN YOGA CLASS, DORA. IT'S BEEN TOUGH TRYING TO GIVE UP COFFEE.
I CAN RECOMMEND SOME EXERCISES AND HERBS, ABBY. I USED TO BE A CAFFEINE ADDICT MYSELF.
YOU WERE?
OH, YEAH! I USED TO DRINK COFFEE ALL DAY. IF I CAN QUIT, ANYONE CAN!
YOU'RE BEING MODEST.
OH, NO! IT WAS MUCH HARDER TO GIVE UP MEAT, DAIRY, SUGAR, WHEAT, AND ALL VEGETABLES THAT AREN'T IN SEASON.
11/12


TODAY I ASKED MY YOGA TEACHER ABOUT QUITTING COFFEE AND SHE GAVE ME SOME EXCELLENT ADVICE!
THAT WOMAN AMAZES ME. SHE REALLY HAS A HANDLE ON LIFE!
ISN'T SHE THE ONE WHO LEFT HER HUSBAND AND KIDS FOR THE GUY WHO PLAYS BONGOS ON THE SUBWAY?
NEGATIVE ENERGY! I DON'T NEED THIS!
LARSON
11/13


ABBY, WHY ARE YOU TAKING ALL THOSE PILLS? ARE YOU OK?
YEAH. THEY'RE JUST HERBS MY YOGA TEACHER TOLD ME TO TAKE TO HELP FIGHT MY ADDICTION TO COFFEE.

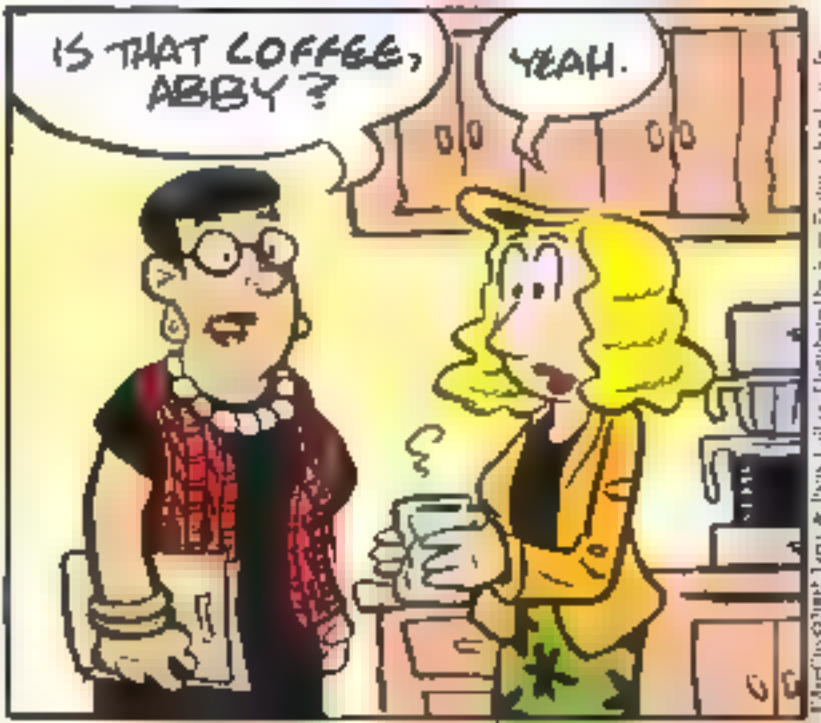
I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE GARLIC CAPLETS 6 TIMES A DAY, GINSENG 3 TIMES, VITAMINS A AND E AT MEALS...


THAT SOUNDS AWFULLY COMPLICATED. DOES IT KEEP YOU FROM WANTING COFFEE?
NOT REALLY. BUT I'M SO BUSY KEEPING EVERYTHING STRAIGHT, I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.

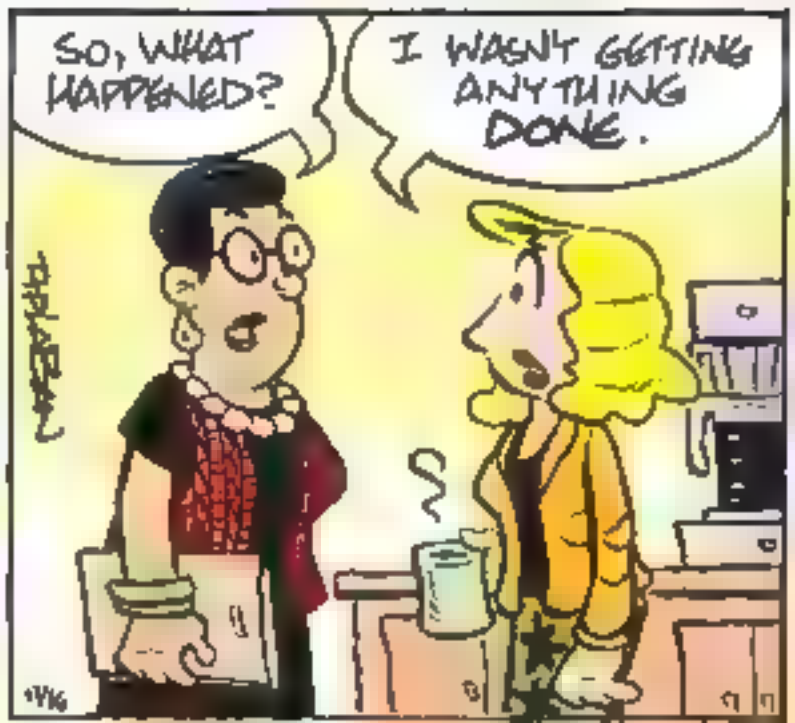

HOW'S THE EFFORT TO GIVE UP COFFEE GOING, ABBY?
PRETTY WELL, LEN. IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I'VE HAD ANY.
CHINA KING

INSTEAD OF CAFFEINE, I'VE BEEN DRINKING JUICES AND HERBAL TEA, DOING YOGA AND WORKING OUT.
WOW! I'M IMPRESSED!
11/16

SO, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
REALLY TIRED.


IS THAT COFFEE, ABBY?
YEAH.

WAS IT JUST TOO HARD TO GIVE IT UP?
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T DRINK ANY FOR A WEEK. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I FELT SO RESTED AND RELAXED.


SO, WHAT HAPPENED?
I WASN'T GETTING ANYTHING DONE.

HEY, YOU GUYS - I GOT US OUR FIRST GIG! MY BROTHER WANTS US TO PLAY AT HIS BAR IN WINSLOW!
ALL RIGHT, GEORGE!
MIDLIFE CRISIS
DON'T WE HAVE TO AUDITION?
NOPE! I GAVE HIM A TAPE, AND HE LIKED IT!
TAPE? WE'VE NEVER MADE A TAPE!
WELL, I RELABELED A TAPE OF THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS. BUT HEY--WE'RE THROUGH THE DOOR!
11/18

HEY, YOU GUYS - I GOT US OUR FIRST GIG! MY BROTHER WANTS US TO PLAY AT HIS BAR IN WINSLOW!
ALL RIGHT, GEORGE!
MIDLIFE CRISIS
DON'T WE HAVE TO AUDITION?
NOPE! I GAVE HIM A TAPE, AND HE LIKED IT!
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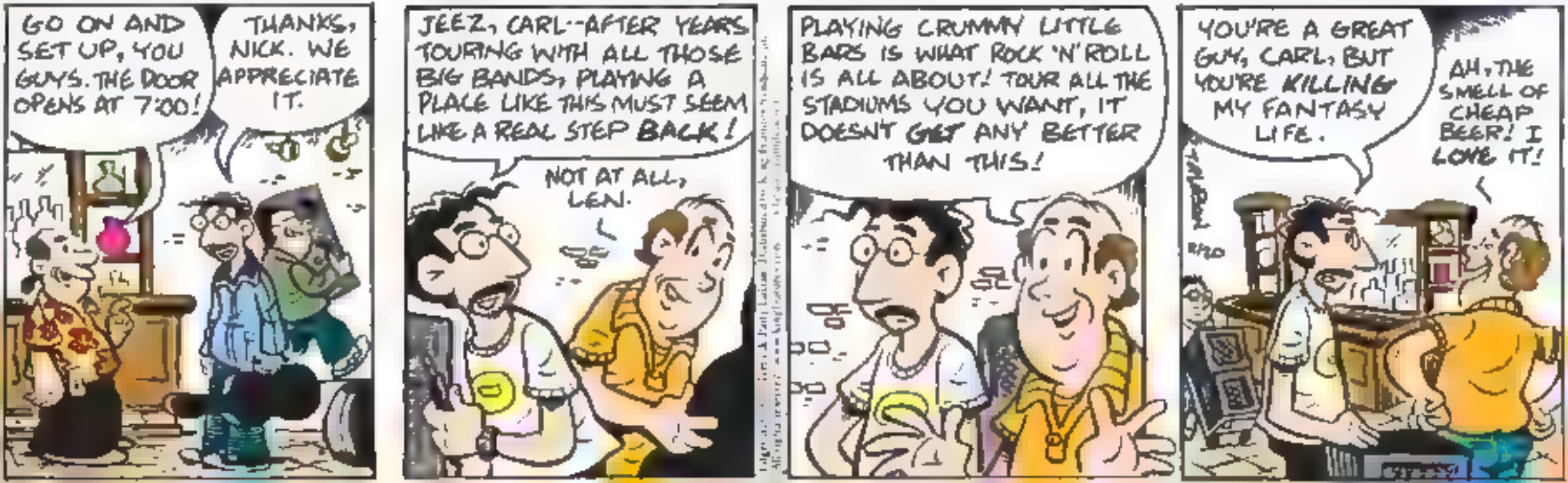
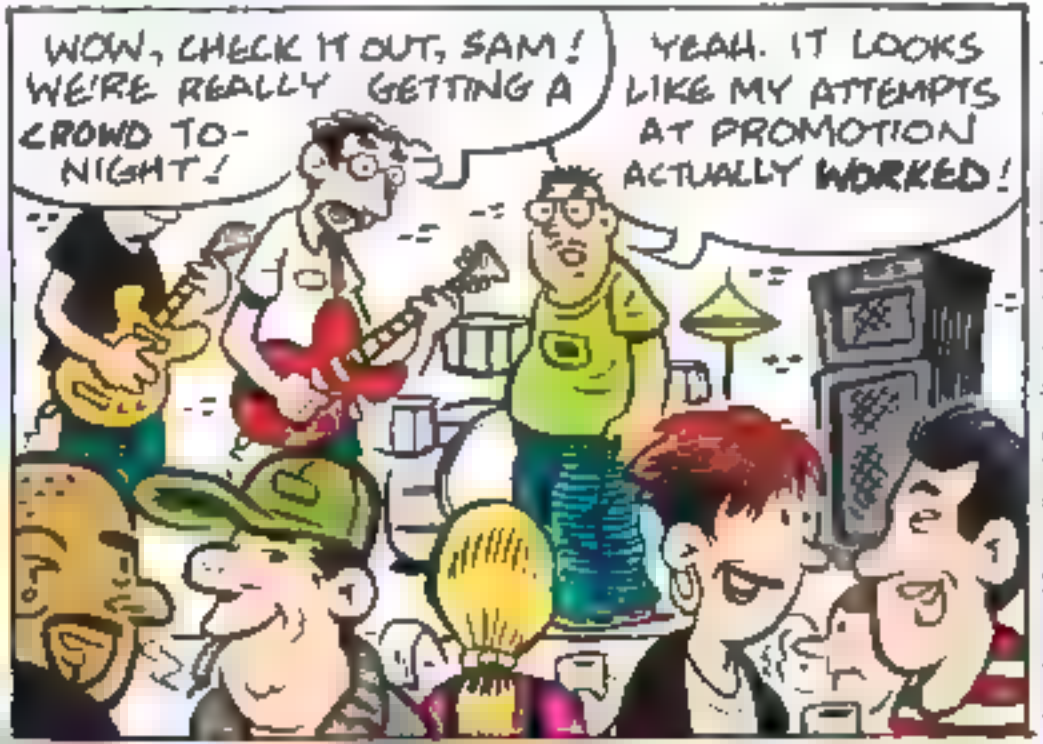
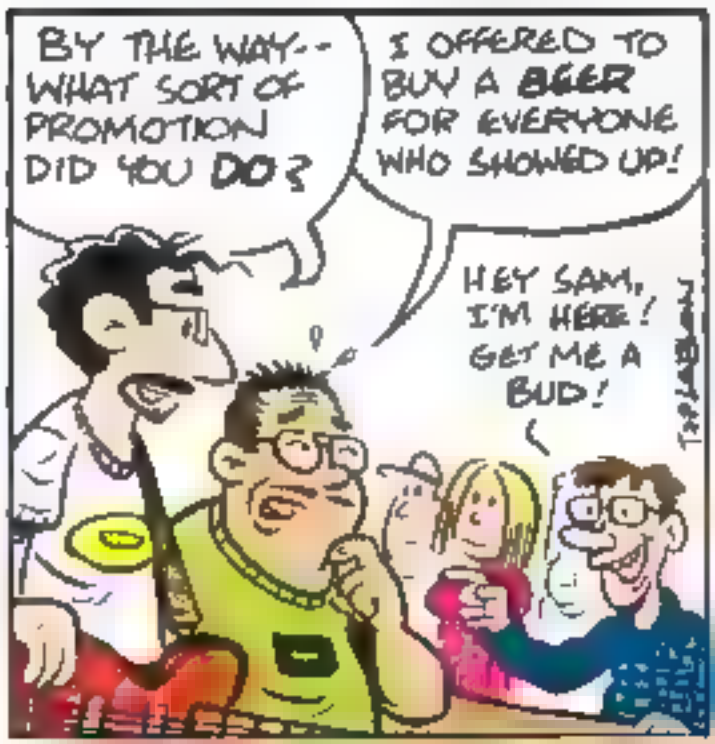
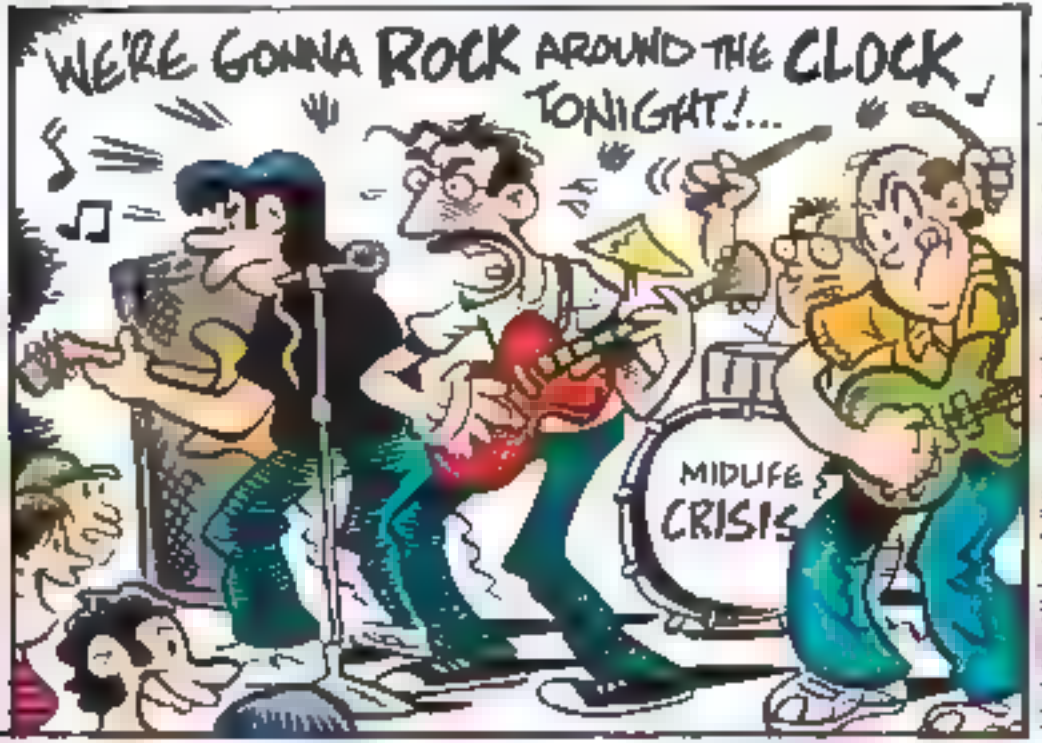
WELL, I RELABELED A TAPE OF THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS. BUT HEY--WE'RE THROUGH THE DOOR!
11/18

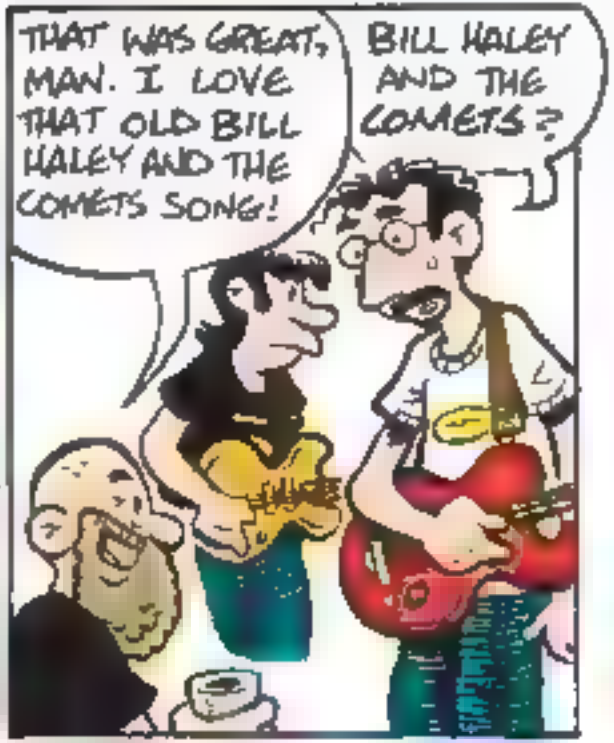

GO ON AND SET UP, YOU GUYS. THE DOOR OPENS AT 7:00!
THANKS, NICK. WE APPRECIATE IT.
JEEZ, CARL--AFTER YEARS TOURING WITH ALL THOSE BIG BANDS, PLAYING A PLACE LIKE THIS MUST SEEM LIKE A REAL STEP BACK!
NOT AT ALL, LEN.
PLAYING CRUMMY LITTLE BARS IS WHAT ROCK 'N' ROLL IS ALL ABOUT! TOUR ALL THE STADIUMS YOU WANT, IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!
YOU'RE A GREAT GUY, CARL, BUT YOU'RE KILLING MY FANTASY LIFE.
AH, THE SMELL OF CHEAP BEER! I LOVE IT!


WOW, CHECK IT OUT, SAM! WE'RE REALLY GETTING A CROWD TO-NIGHT!
YEAH. IT LOOKS LIKE MY ATTEMPTS AT PROMOTION ACTUALLY WORKED!

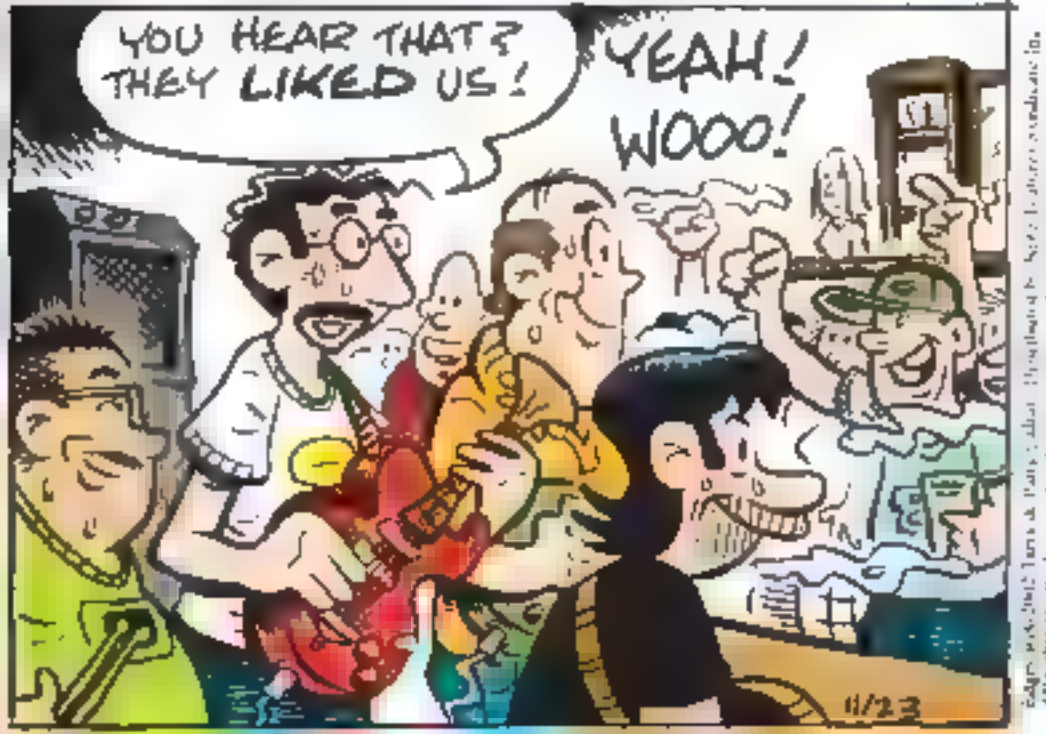
I'M STARTING TO GET WORRIED.
DON'T BE! ONCE WE GET STARTED, WE'RE GONNA BE GREAT!
11/21


BY THE WAY-- WHAT SORT OF PROMOTION DID YOU DO?
I OFFERED TO BUY A BEER FOR EVERYONE WHO SHOWED UP!
HEY SAM, I'M HERE! GET ME A BUD!


WE'RE GONNA ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK TONIGHT!...
MIDLIFE CRISIS

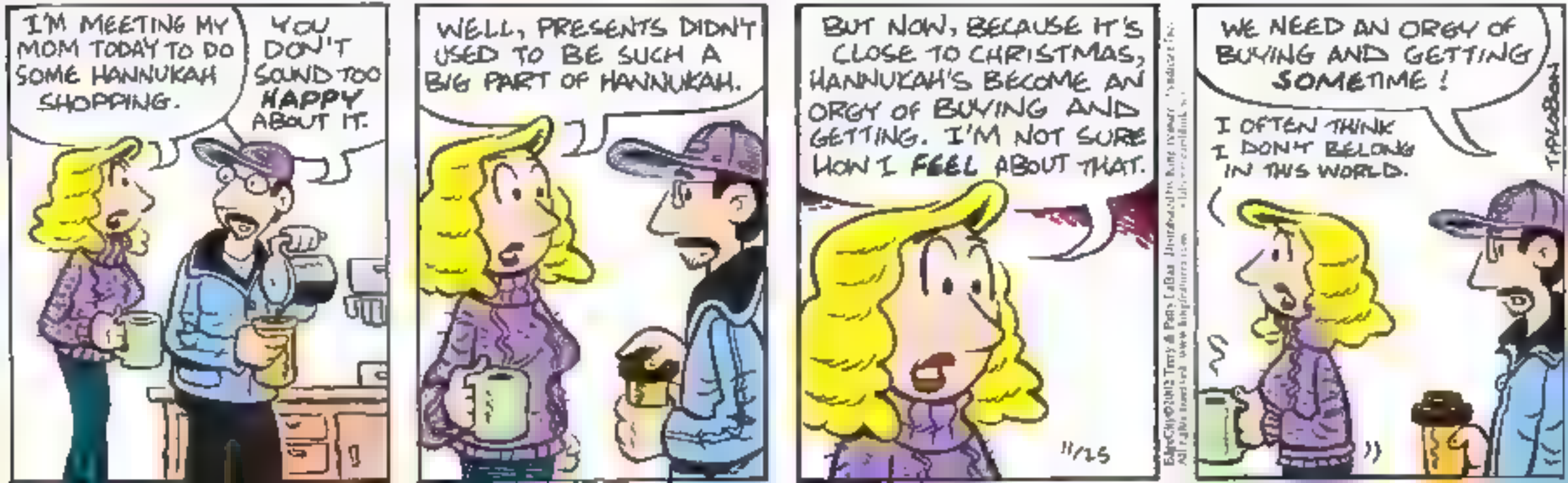

THAT WAS GREAT, MAN. I LOVE THAT OLD BILL HALEY AND THE COMETS SONG!
BILL HALEY AND THE COMETS?

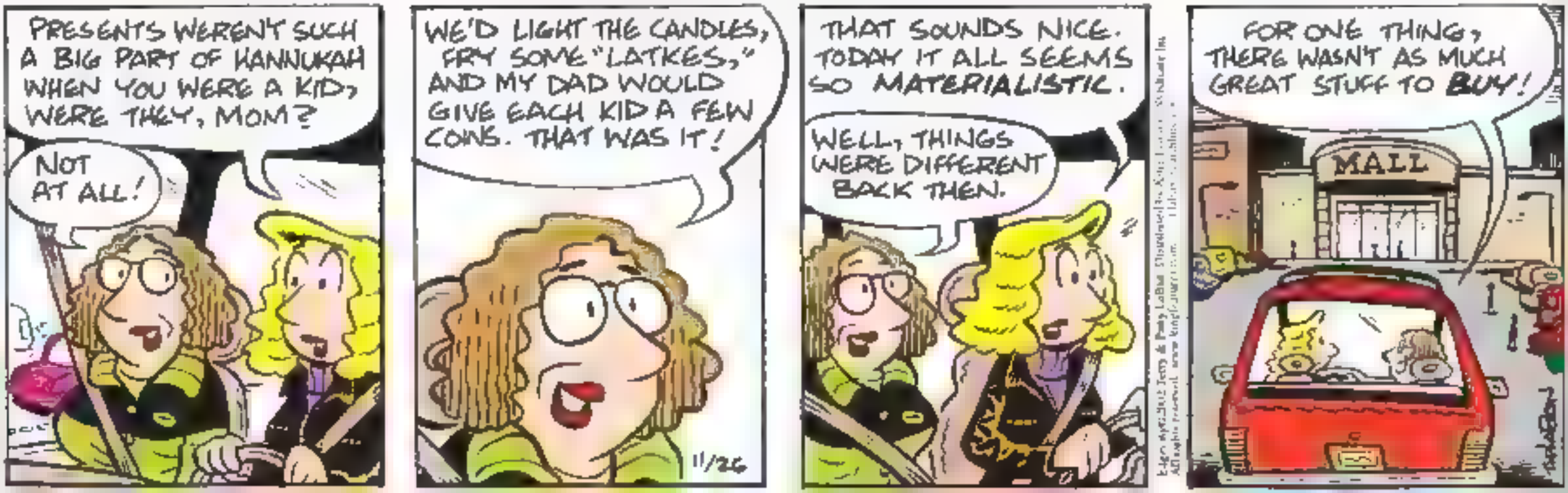
THEY WROTE IT, DIDN'T THEY?
WELL, YEAH. BUT WE WERE DOING THE SEX PISTOLS VERSION!
THPLABON
11/22

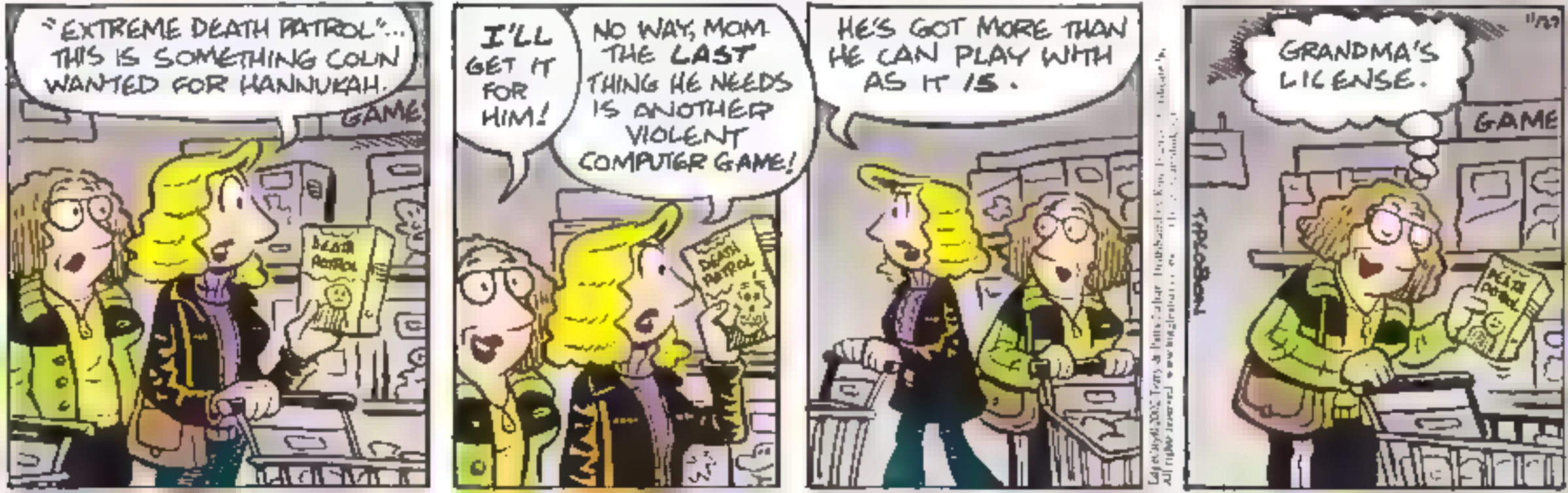

YOU HEAR THAT? THEY LIKED US!
YEAH! WOOO!
11/23

MAN, WE ROCKED AS HARD AS ANY BUNCH OF 22-YEAR-OLDS TONIGHT! I FEEL LIKE THERE'S NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO!

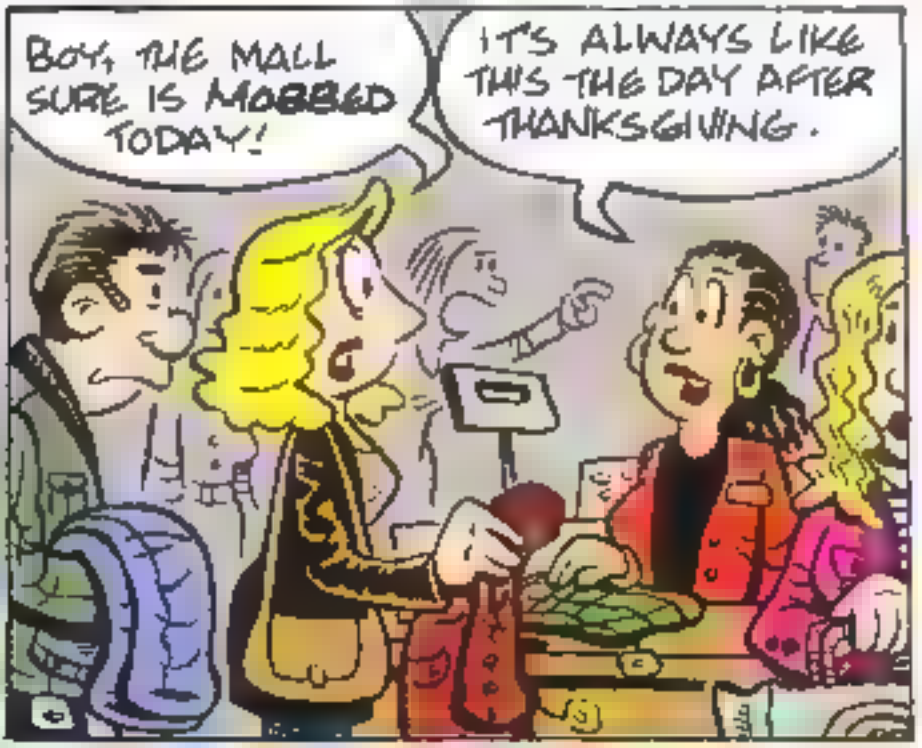
WE OUGHT TO PLAY ANOTHER SET!
I CAN'T. I'VE GOTTA GET THE BABY SITTER HOME BY 11:00.


I'M MEETING MY MOM TODAY TO DO SOME HANNUKAH SHOPPING.
YOU DON'T SOUND TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.
WELL, PRESENTS DIDN'T USED TO BE SUCH A BIG PART OF HANNUKAH.
BUT NOW, BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS, HANNUKAH'S BECOME AN ORGY OF BUYING AND GETTING. I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT.
11/25
WE NEED AN ORGY OF BUYING AND GETTING SOMETIME!
I OFTEN THINK I DON'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD.
TALABON


PRESENTS WEREN'T SUCH A BIG PART OF HANNUKAH WHEN YOU WERE A KID, WERE THEY, MOM?
NOT AT ALL!
WE'D LIGHT THE CANDLES, FRY SOME "LATKES," AND MY DAD WOULD GIVE EACH KID A FEW COINS. THAT WAS IT!
11/26
THAT SOUNDS NICE. TODAY IT ALL SEEMS SO MATERIALISTIC.
WELL, THINGS WERE DIFFERENT BACK THEN.
FOR ONE THING, THERE WASN'T AS MUCH GREAT STUFF TO BUY!
MALL

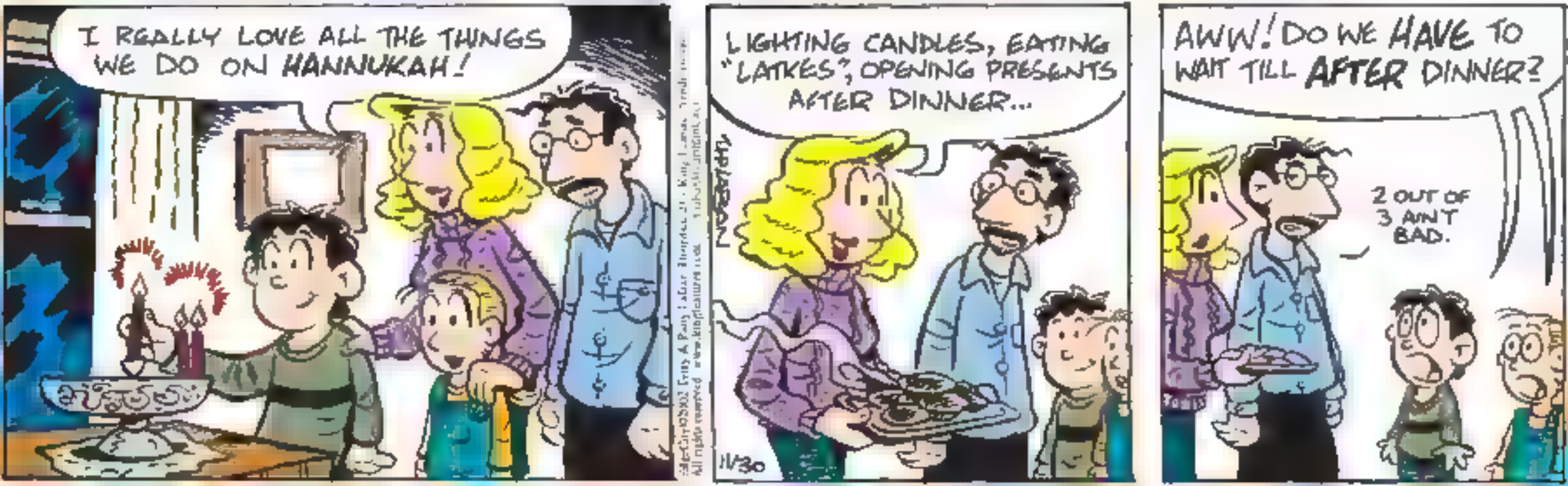

"EXTREME DEATH PATROL"... THIS IS SOMETHING COLIN WANTED FOR HANNUKAH.
GAME
I'LL GET IT FOR HIM!
NO WAY, MOM. THE LAST THING HE NEEDS IS ANOTHER VIOLENT COMPUTER GAME!
HE'S GOT MORE THAN HE CAN PLAY WITH AS IT IS.
GRANDMA'S LICENSE.
GAME

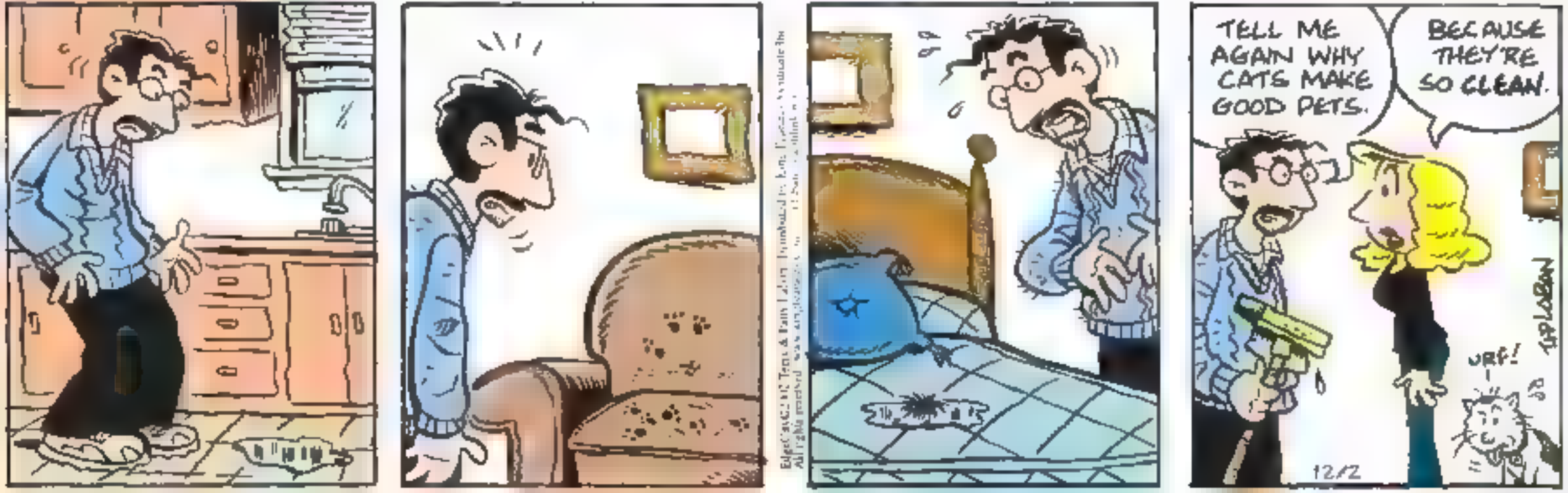
GUESS HOW MY KIDS DID ON THEIR INTELLIGENCE TESTS?
I TOTALLY THINK TURKEYS HAVE SOULS.
CHECK IT OUT! A STUFFING SCULPTURE!
OK--I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
JUST LET ME CHECK THE SCORE.
AH...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING!
ZZZZ...
MOOOM! COLIN'S SPITTING OUT HIS FOOOD!
I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THIS STUFF.

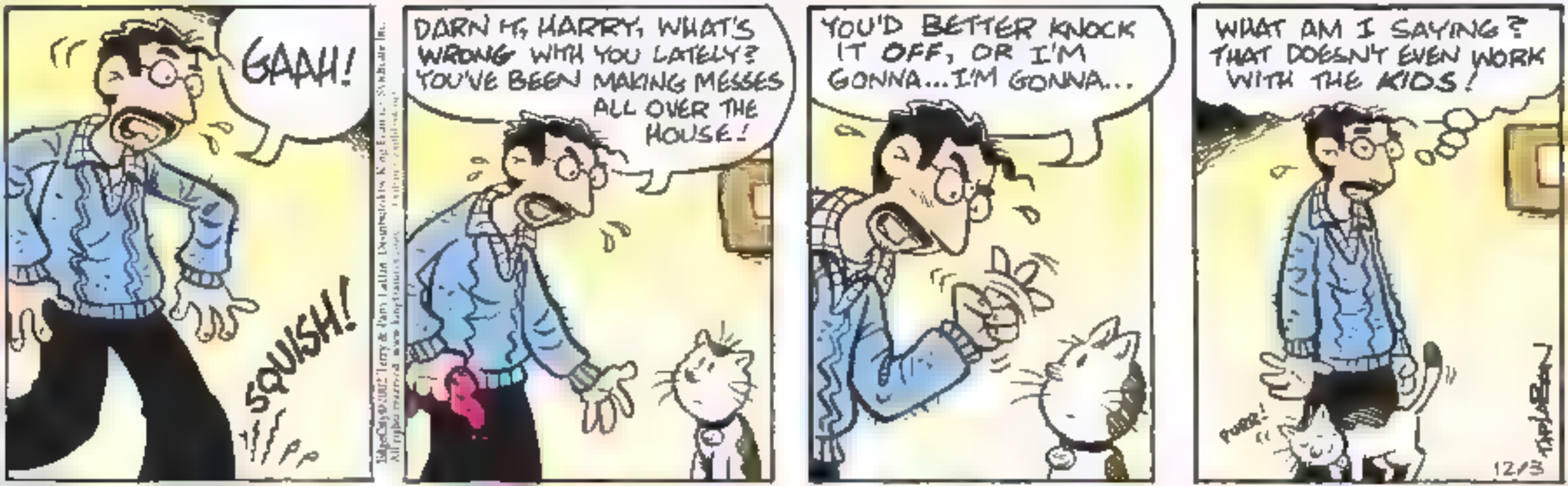

BOY, THE MALL SURE IS MOBBED TODAY!
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING.

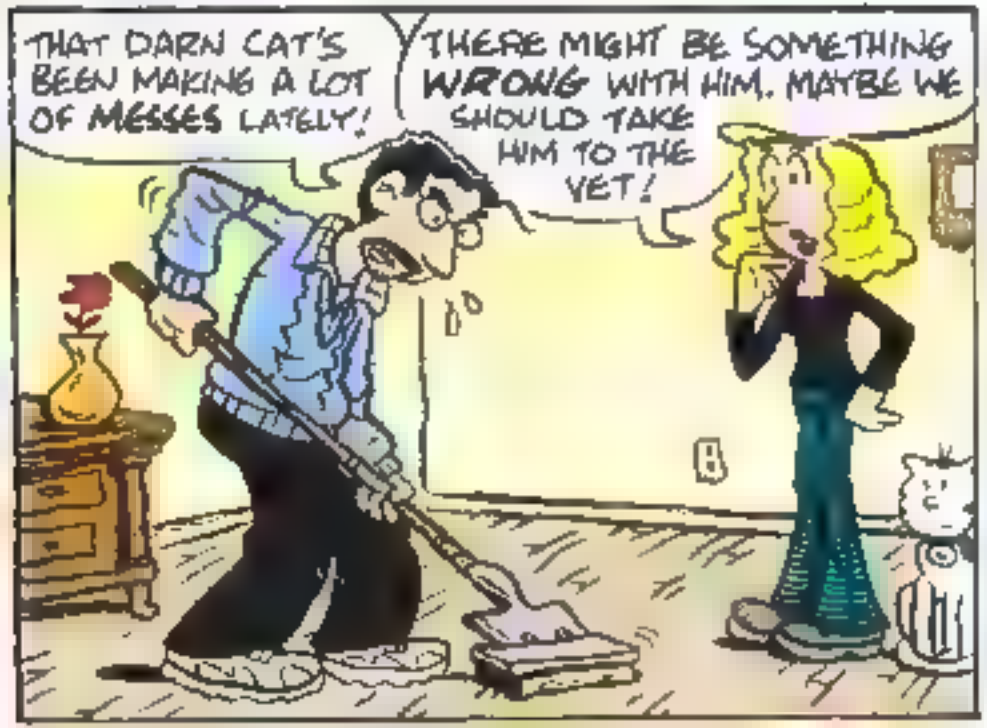
I KNOW. BUT I HAD TO FINISH BUYING MY GIFTS.
WELL, THERE ARE STILL 28 DAYS LEFT TILL CHRISTMAS!
11/29

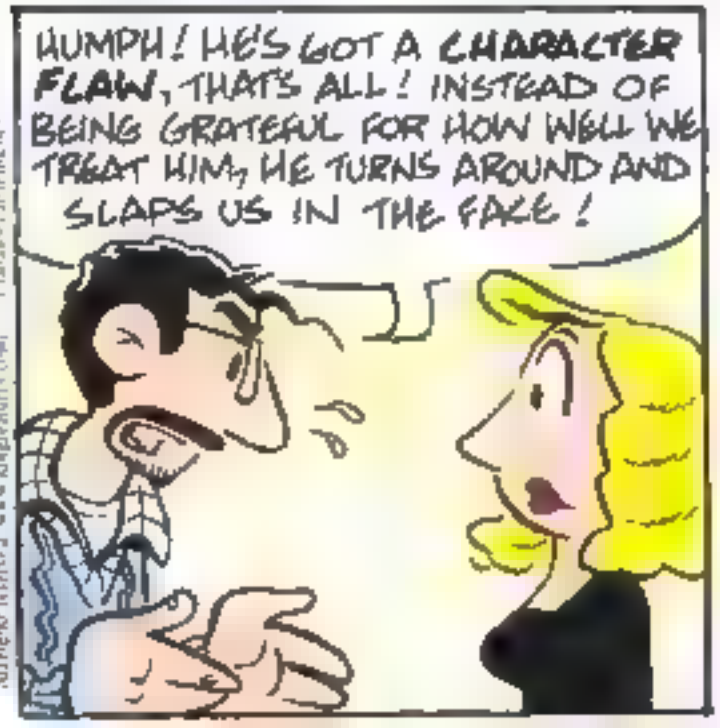
YEAH--BUT THERE ARE ONLY 6 MORE HOURS TILL HANNUKAH!
TERRY

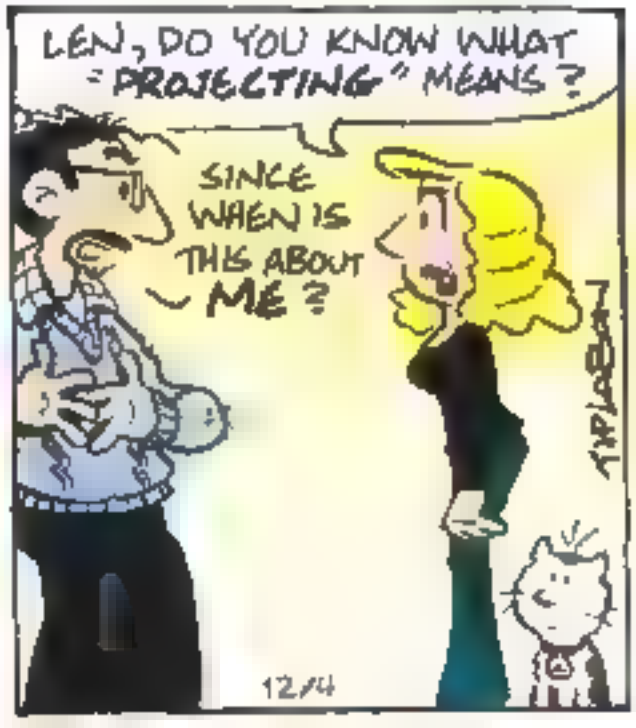

I REALLY LOVE ALL THE THINGS WE DO ON HANNUKAH!
LIGHTING CANDLES, EATING "LATKES", OPENING PRESENTS AFTER DINNER...
11/30
AWW! DO WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL AFTER DINNER?
2 OUT OF 3 AIN'T BAD.

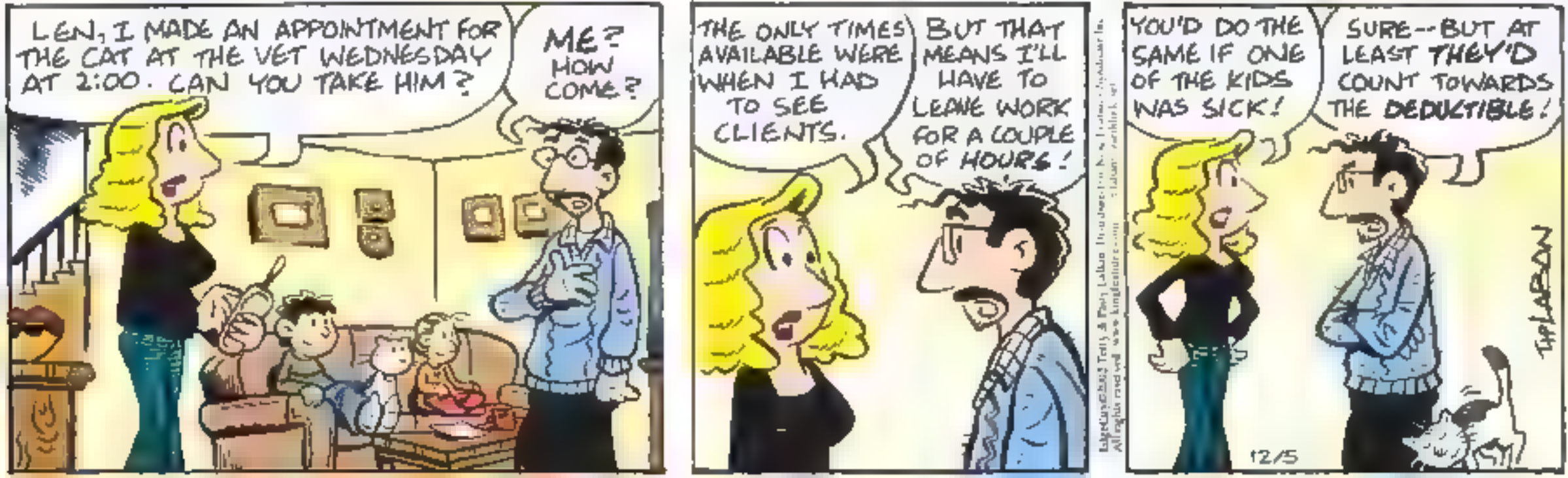

TELL ME AGAIN WHY CATS MAKE GOOD PETS.
BECAUSE THEY'RE SO CLEAN.
URF!
12/2

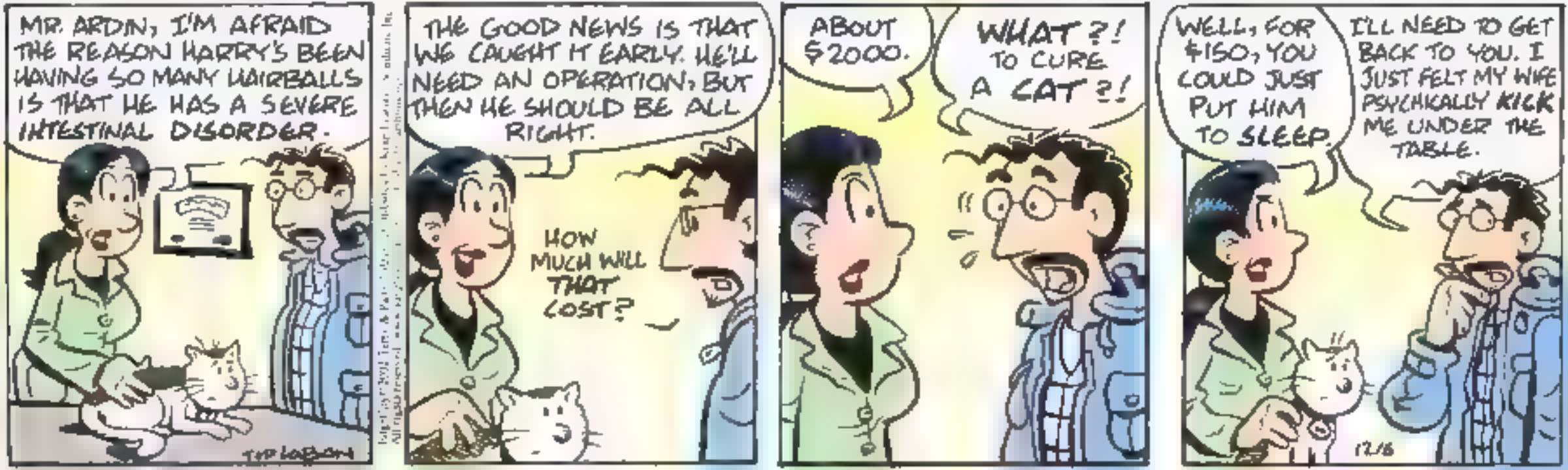

GAAH!
SQUISH!
DARN IT, HARRY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU LATELY? YOU'VE BEEN MAKING MESSES ALL OVER THE HOUSE!
YOU'D BETTER KNOCK IT OFF, OR I'M GONNA...I'M GONNA...
WHAT AM I SAYING? THAT DOESN'T EVEN WORK WITH THE KIDS!
PURR!
12/3

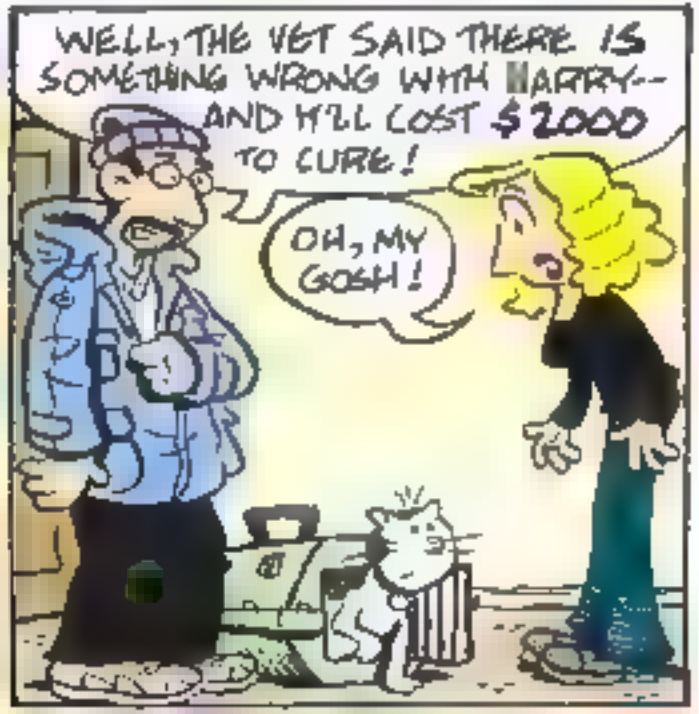

THAT DARN CAT'S BEEN MAKING A LOT OF MESSES LATELY!
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM. MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO THE VET!

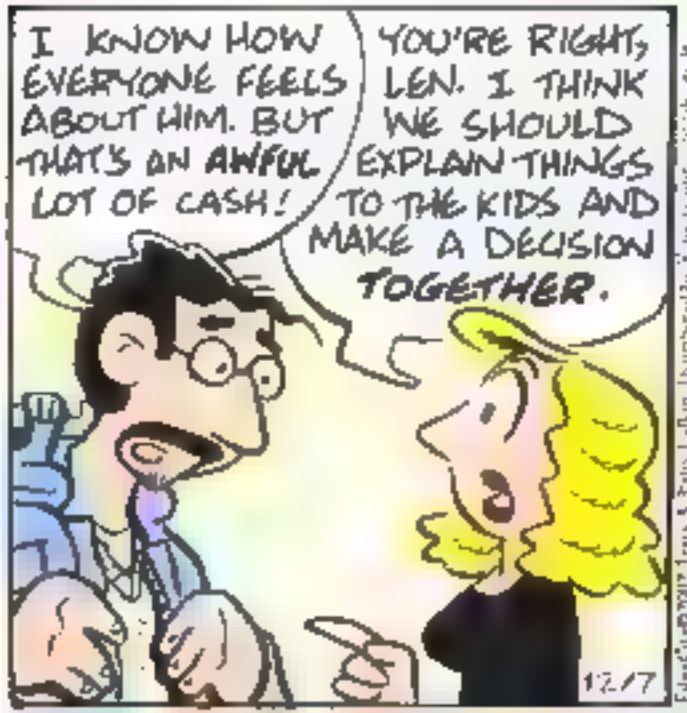

HUMPH! HE'S GOT A CHARACTER FLAW, THAT'S ALL! INSTEAD OF BEING GRATEFUL FOR HOW WELL WE TREAT HIM, HE TURNS AROUND AND SLAPS US IN THE FACE!

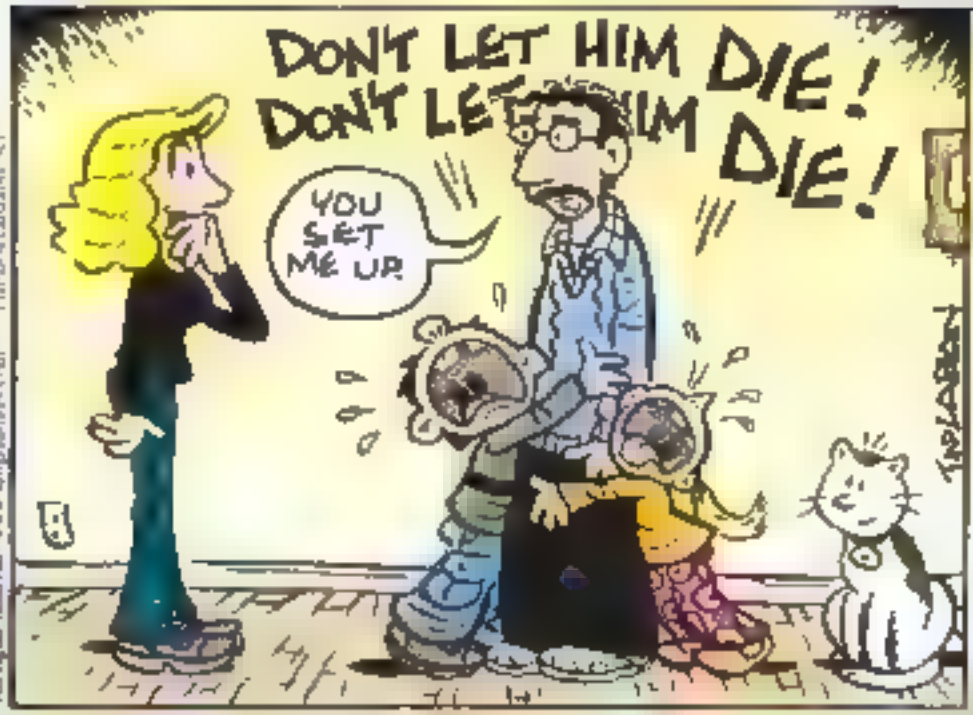

LEN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT "PROJECTING" MEANS?
SINCE WHEN IS THIS ABOUT ME?
12/4

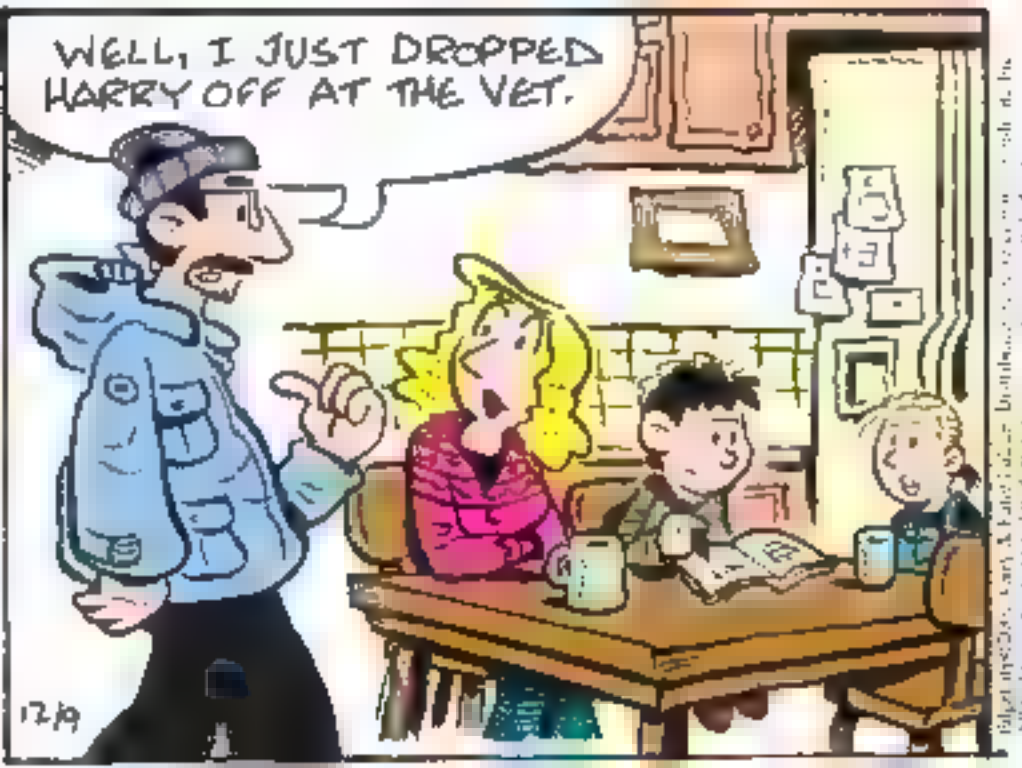

LEN, I MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE CAT AT THE VET WEDNESDAY AT 2:00. CAN YOU TAKE HIM?
ME? HOW COME?
THE ONLY TIMES AVAILABLE WERE WHEN I HAD TO SEE CLIENTS.
BUT THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE WORK FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS!
YOU'D DO THE SAME IF ONE OF THE KIDS WAS SICK!
SURE--BUT AT LEAST THEY'D COUNT TOWARDS THE DEDUCTIBLE!
TOM LARSON
12/5


MR. ARDIN, I'M AFRAID THE REASON HARRY'S BEEN HAVING SO MANY HAIRBALLS IS THAT HE HAS A SEVERE INTESTINAL DISORDER.
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE CAUGHT IT EARLY. HE'LL NEED AN OPERATION, BUT THEN HE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
HOW MUCH WILL THAT COST?
ABOUT $2000.
WHAT?! TO CURE A CAT?!
WELL, FOR $150, YOU COULD JUST PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
I'LL NEED TO GET BACK TO YOU. I JUST FELT MY WIFE PSYCHICALLY KICK ME UNDER THE TABLE.
12/16


WELL, THE VET SAID THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HARRY-- AND IT'LL COST $2000 TO CURE!
OH, MY GOSH!

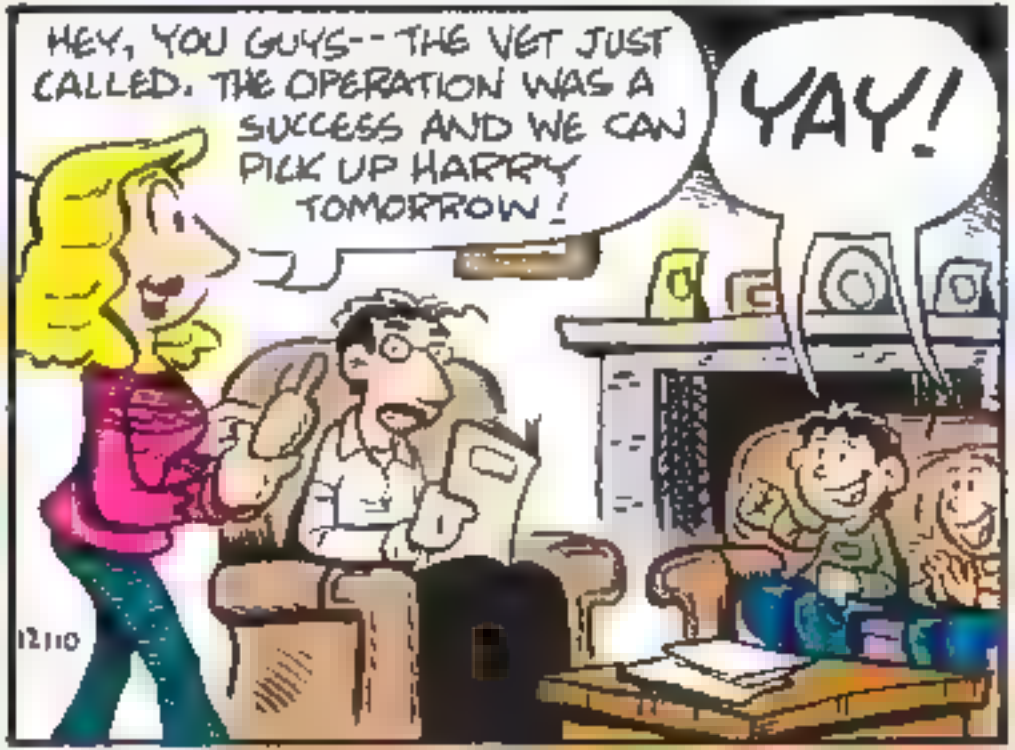

I KNOW HOW EVERYONE FEELS ABOUT HIM. BUT THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF CASH!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LEN. I THINK WE SHOULD EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE KIDS AND MAKE A DECISION TOGETHER.
12/7


DON'T LET HIM DIE! DON'T LET HIM DIE!
YOU SET ME UP!


WELL, I JUST DROPPED HARRY OFF AT THE VET.
12/9

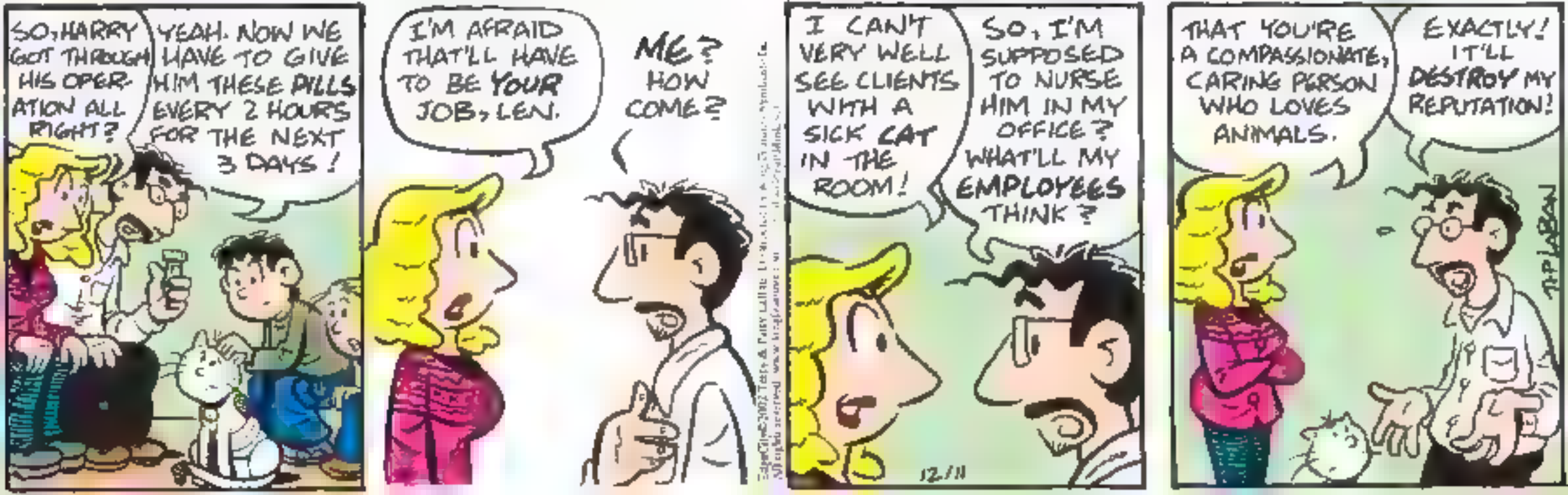
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO PAY $2000 TO OPERATE ON THE CAT!
STOP KVETCHING, LEN-- WE CAN AFFORD IT.

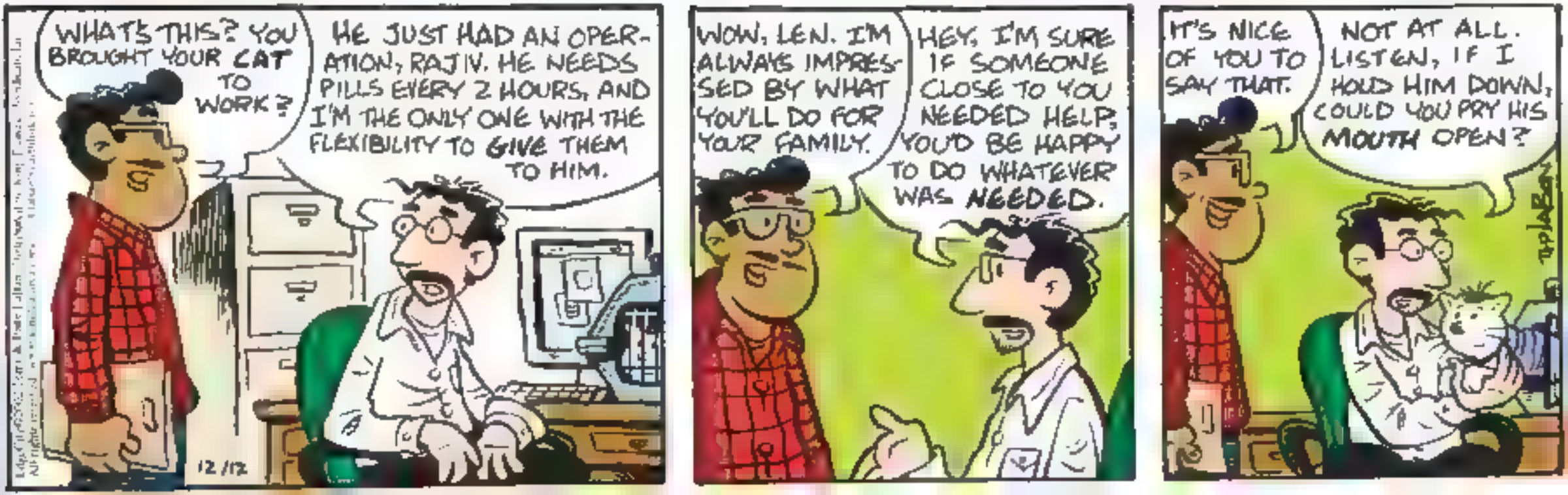
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAID WHEN I WANTED TO UPGRADE THE HOME ENTER-TAINMENT SYSTEM!
TEACH IT TO SIT IN MY LAP AND PURR. THEN WE'LL TALK.

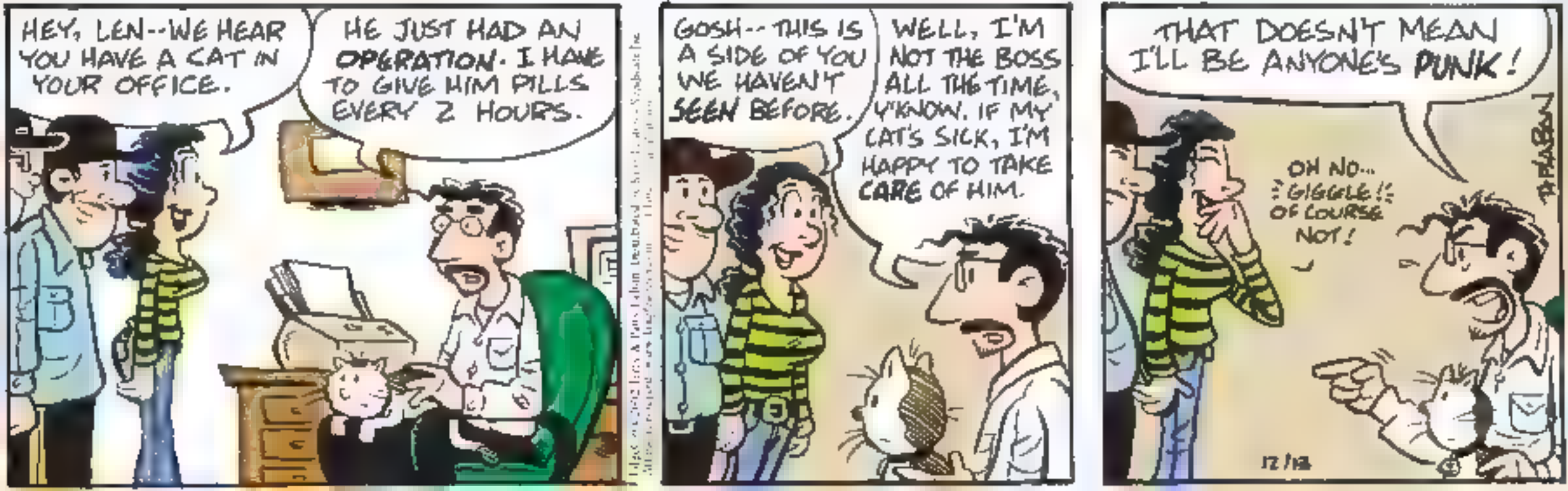

HEY, YOU GUYS--THE VET JUST CALLED. THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS AND WE CAN PICK UP HARRY TOMORROW!
YAY!
12/10

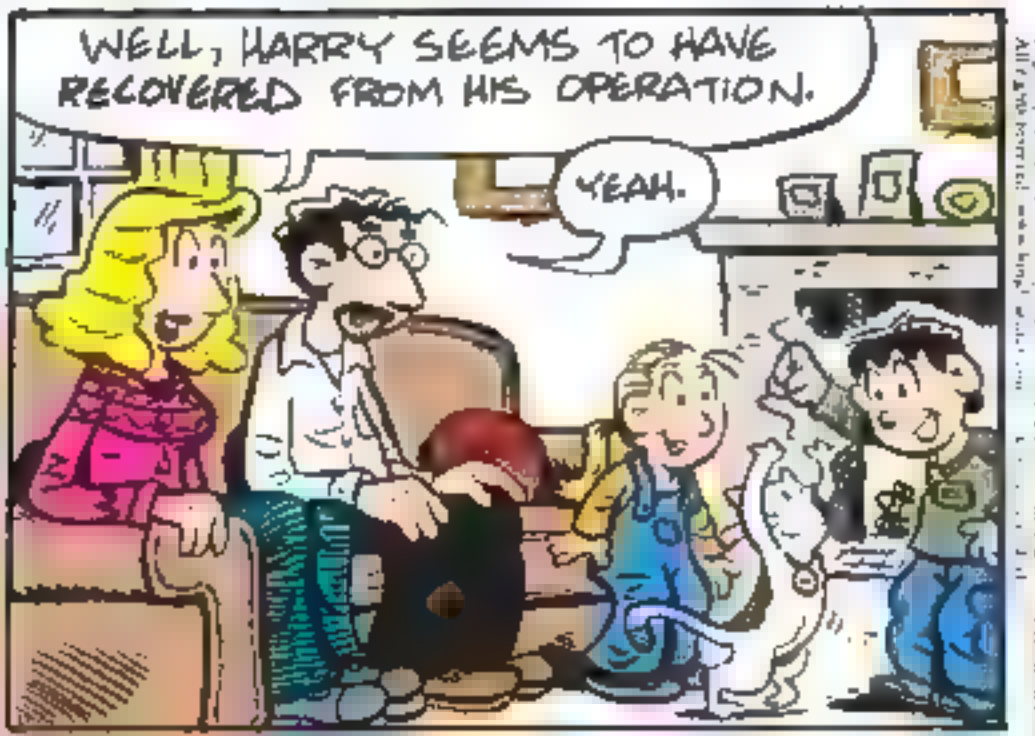
LEN! YOU'RE CRYING!
SNIFF! I'M OK!

IS IT BECAUSE YOU WERE MORE WORRIED ABOUT OUR KITTY'S OPERATION THAN YOU LET ON?
NO--BECAUSE I'M WORRYING ABOUT HAVING TO PAY FOR IT!
TAPLABEN


SO, HARRY GOT THROUGH HIS OPERATION ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. NOW WE HAVE TO GIVE HIM THESE PILLS EVERY 2 HOURS FOR THE NEXT 3 DAYS!
I'M AFRAID THAT'LL HAVE TO BE YOUR JOB, LEN.
ME? HOW COME?
I CAN'T VERY WELL SEE CLIENTS WITH A SICK CAT IN THE ROOM!
SO, I'M SUPPOSED TO NURSE HIM IN MY OFFICE? WHAT'LL MY EMPLOYEES THINK?
12/11
THAT YOU'RE A COMPASSIONATE, CARING PERSON WHO LOVES ANIMALS.
EXACTLY! IT'LL DESTROY MY REPUTATION!
TAPLARAN


WHAT'S THIS? YOU BROUGHT YOUR CAT TO WORK?
HE JUST HAD AN OPERATION, RAJIV. HE NEEDS PILLS EVERY 2 HOURS, AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH THE FLEXIBILITY TO GIVE THEM TO HIM.
12/12
WOW, LEN. I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED BY WHAT YOU'LL DO FOR YOUR FAMILY.
HEY, I'M SURE IF SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU NEEDED HELP, YOU'D BE HAPPY TO DO WHATEVER WAS NEEDED.
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT.
NOT AT ALL. LISTEN, IF I HOLD HIM DOWN, COULD YOU PRY HIS MOUTH OPEN?


HEY, LEN--WE HEAR YOU HAVE A CAT IN YOUR OFFICE.
HE JUST HAD AN OPERATION. I HAVE TO GIVE HIM PILLS EVERY 2 HOURS.
GOSH--THIS IS A SIDE OF YOU WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE.
WELL, I'M NOT THE BOSS ALL THE TIME, Y'KNOW. IF MY CAT'S SICK, I'M HAPPY TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL BE ANYONE'S PUNK!
OH NO... :GIGGLE!: OF COURSE NOT!
12/12


WELL, HARRY SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED FROM HIS OPERATION.
YEAH.

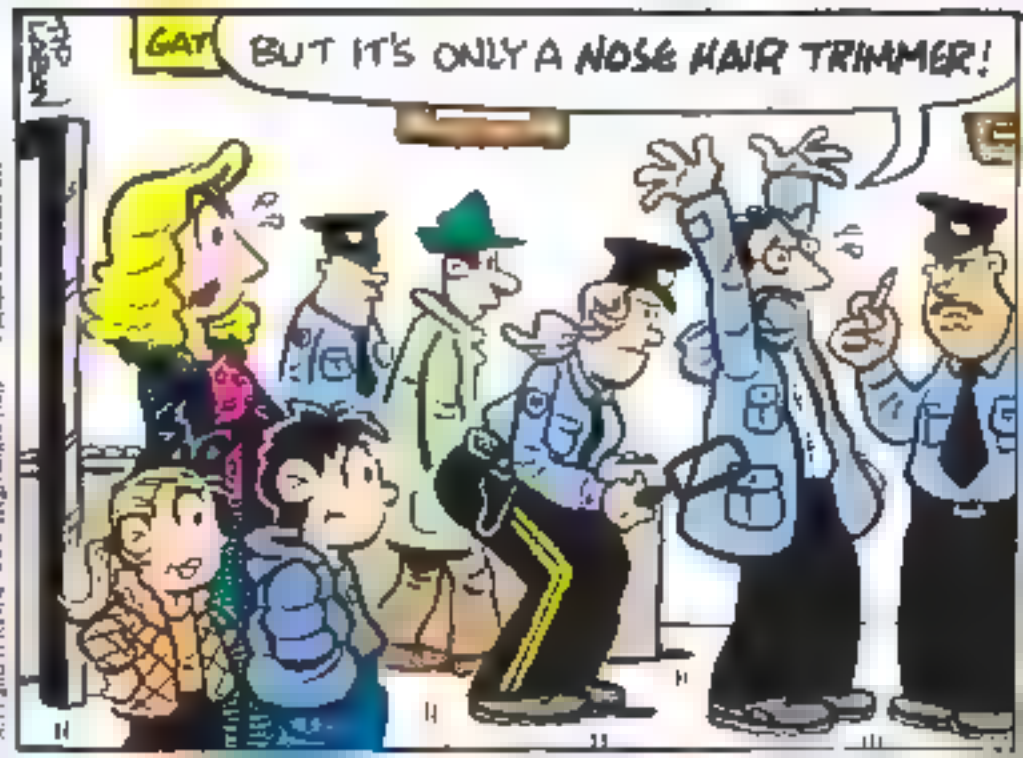
YOU REALLY TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIM, LEN. MAYBE YOU DON'T DISLIKE HIM AS MUCH AS YOU SAY YOU DO. MAYBE YOU'D EVEN MISS HIM IF HE WASN'T AROUND!
12/14

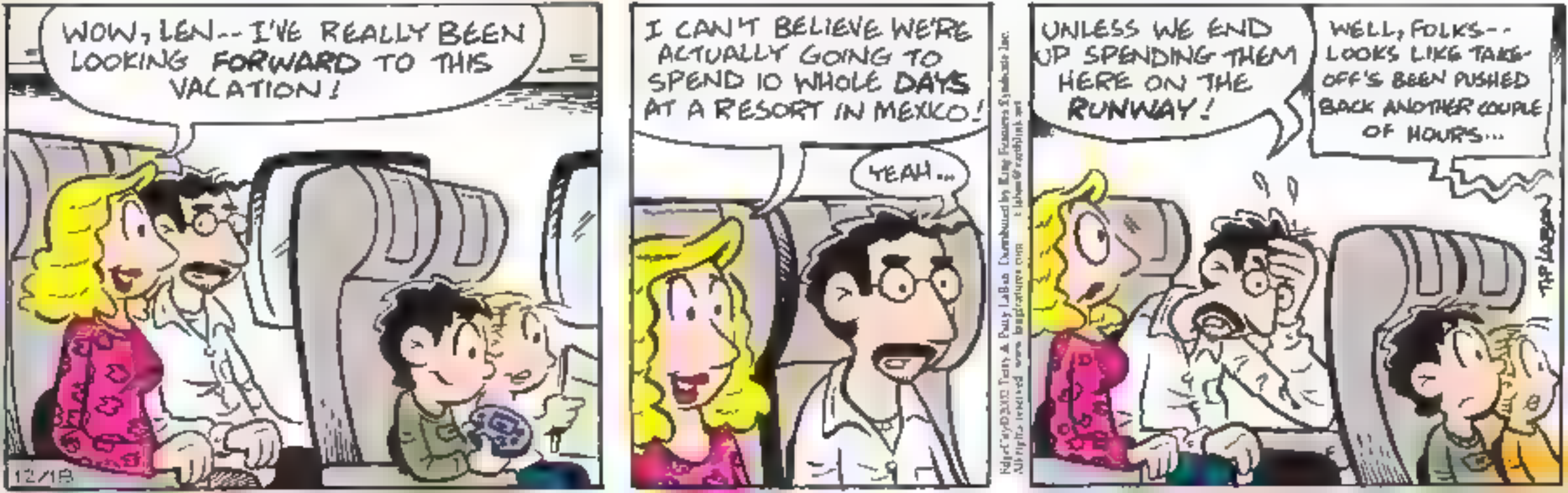
OR MAYBE I'M JUST A PUSHOVER.
AS FAR AS YOUR FAMILY'S CONCERNED, THAT'S A GOOD THING.

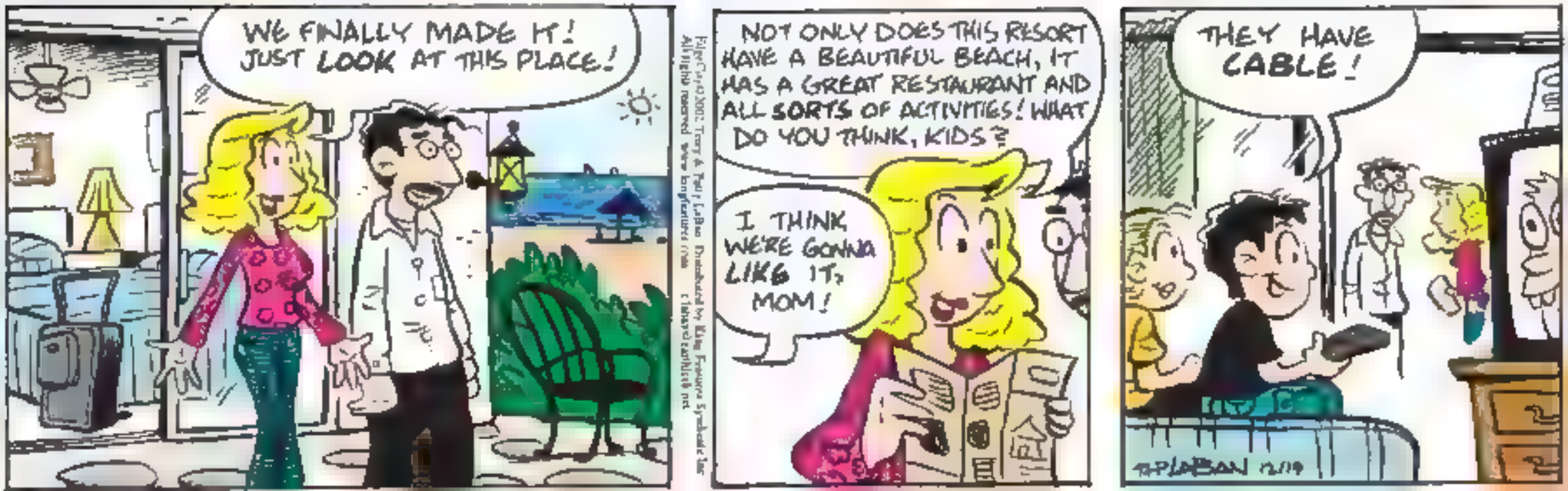
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE FINALLY GOING BACK TO MEXICO!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME! REMEMBER HOW MUCH FUN WE HAD?
WE LIVED OUT OF BACK-PACKS, STAYED AT CHEAP HOTELS, AND LAUGHED AT ALL THE TOURISTS ON PACKAGE TRIPS!
NOW WE'RE STAYING AT A BIG, ALL-INCLUSNE, FAMILY RESORT!
12/16
IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
YEAH...
WE'VE BECOME THE PEOPLE WE DISDAINED.
LIKE DEATH AND TAXES, IT'S INEVITABLE.

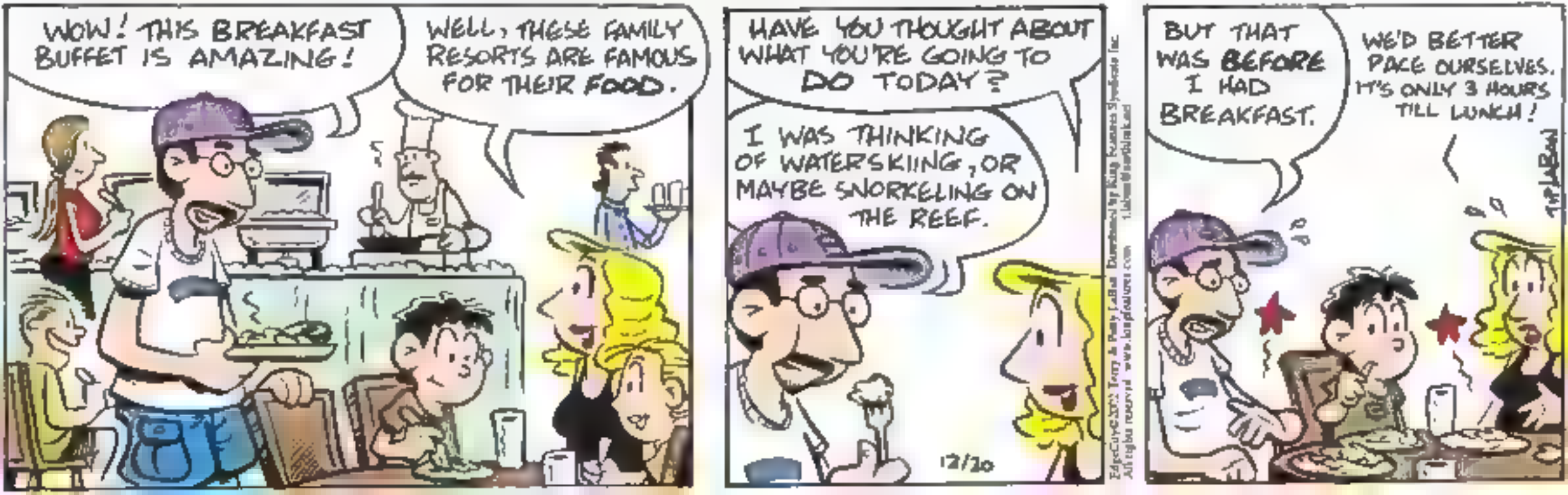
MAN, THIS LINE IS SLOW!
THEY'VE REALLY TIGHTENED UP AIRPORT SECURITY!

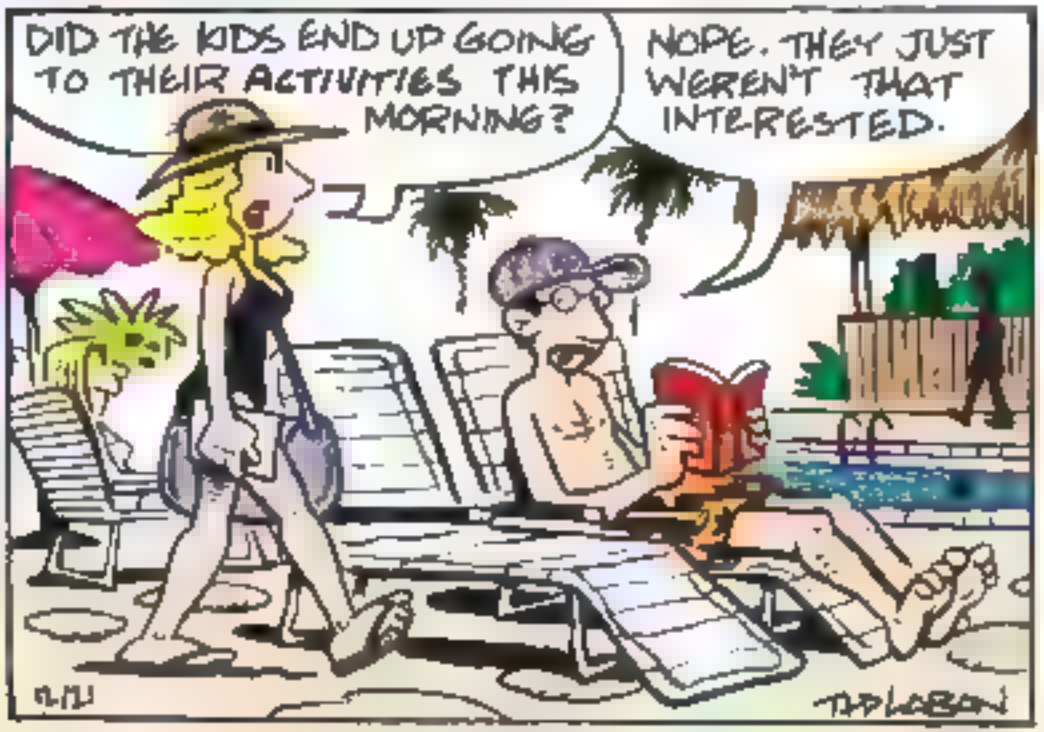
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT'LL CAUSE US MORE DELAY.
C'MON! WHAT KIND OF AN IDIOT DO YOU THINK I AM?
12/17


GAT
BUT IT'S ONLY A NOSE HAIR TRIMMER!


WOW, LEN -- I'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS VACATION!
12/18
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO SPEND 10 WHOLE DAYS AT A RESORT IN MEXICO!
YEAH...
UNLESS WE END UP SPENDING THEM HERE ON THE RUNWAY!
WELL, FOLKS -- LOOKS LIKE TAKE-OFF'S BEEN PUSHED BACK ANOTHER COUPLE OF HOURS...
TIM LARSEN


WE FINALLY MADE IT! JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
NOT ONLY DOES THIS RESORT HAVE A BEAUTIFUL BEACH, IT HAS A GREAT RESTAURANT AND ALL SORTS OF ACTIVITIES! WHAT DO YOU THINK, KIDS?
I THINK WE'RE GONNA LIKE IT, MOM!
THEY HAVE CABLE!


WOW! THIS BREAKFAST BUFFET IS AMAZING!
WELL, THESE FAMILY RESORTS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR FOOD.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO TODAY?
I WAS THINKING OF WATERSKIING, OR MAYBE SNORKELING ON THE REEF.
12/20
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I HAD BREAKFAST.
WE'D BETTER PACE OURSELVES. IT'S ONLY 3 HOURS TILL LUNCH!



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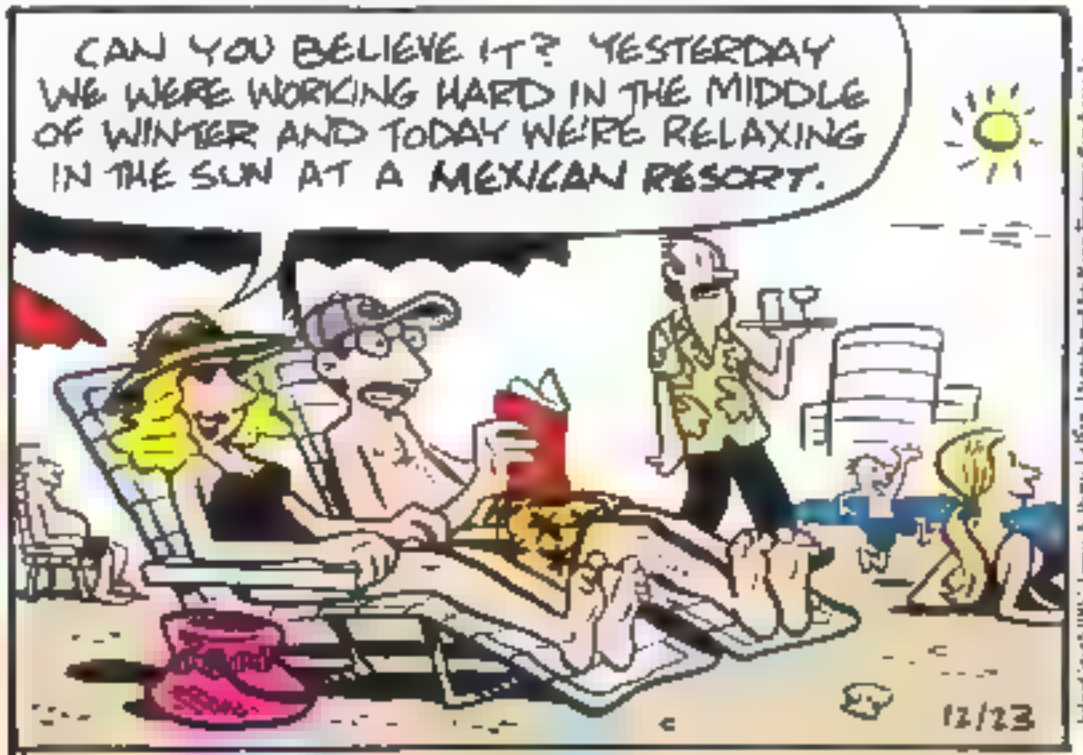
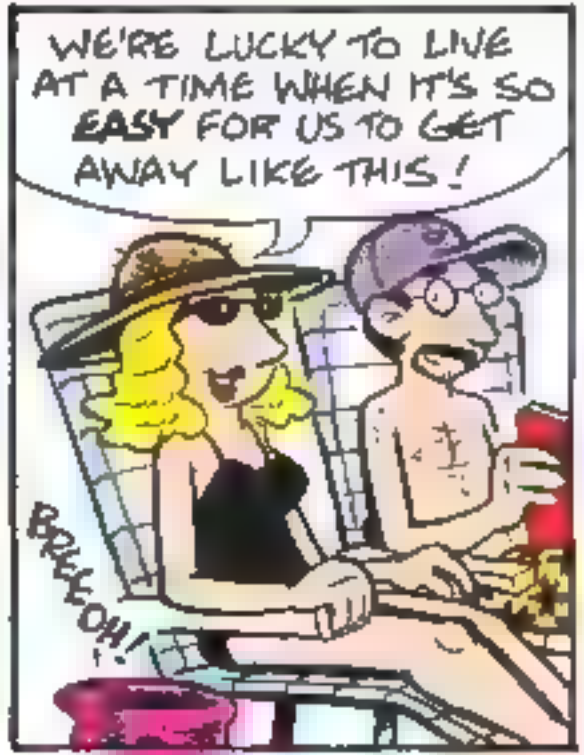
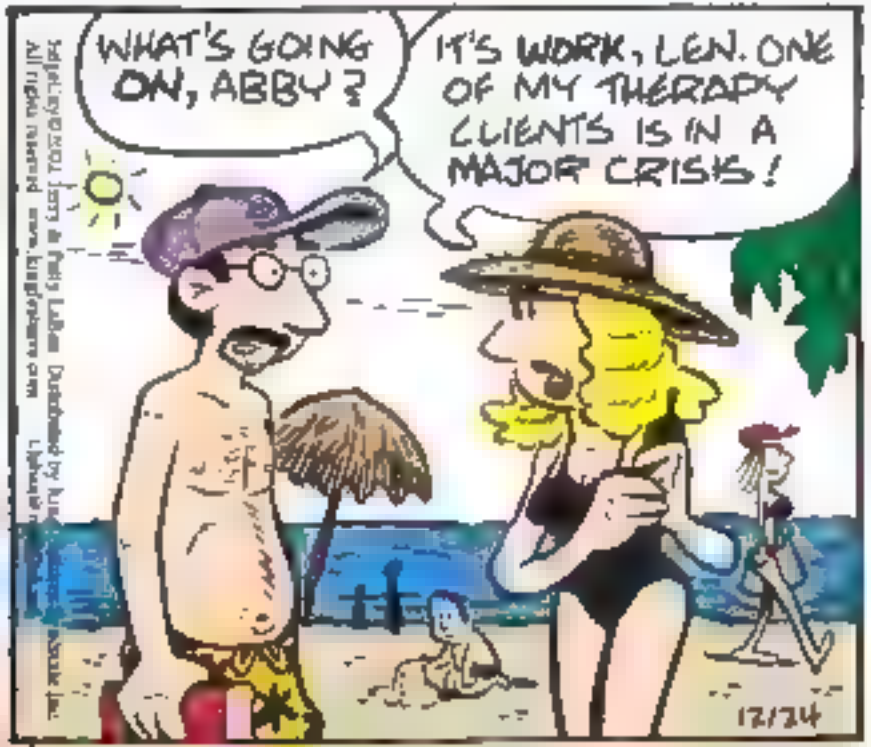
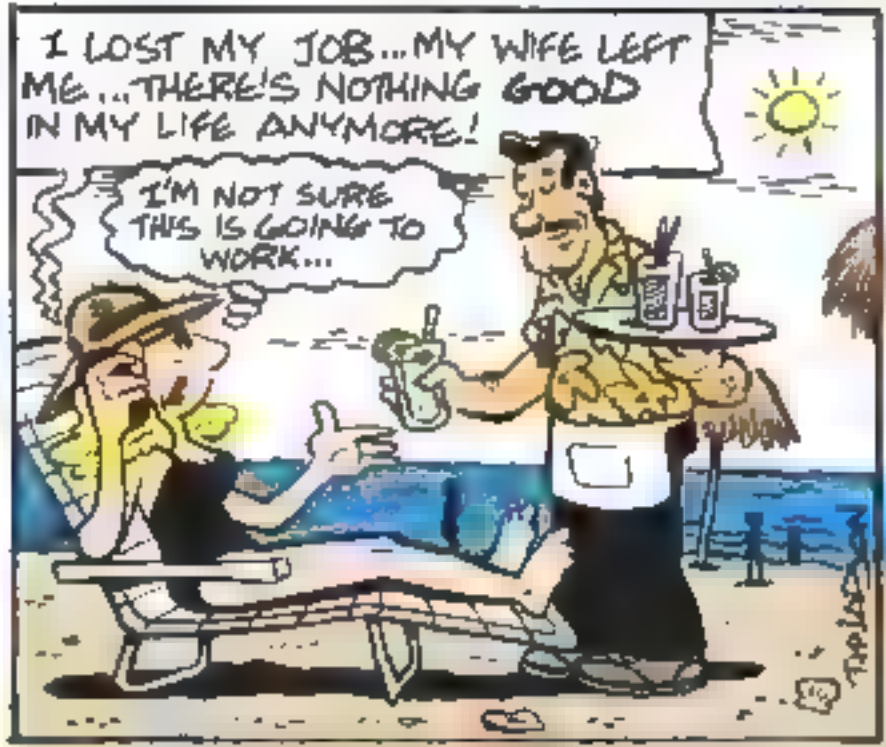

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? YESTERDAY WE WERE WORKING HARD IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER AND TODAY WE'RE RELAXING IN THE SUN AT A MEXICAN RESORT.
12/23


WE'RE LUCKY TO LIVE AT A TIME WHEN IT'S SO EASY FOR US TO GET AWAY LIKE THIS!
BREEOH!

UH, YES... THIS IS DR. ARDIN...
OF COURSE, IF IT'S EASY FOR US TO GET AWAY, IT'S EASY FOR THEM TO FOLLOW!
TIPLADEAN

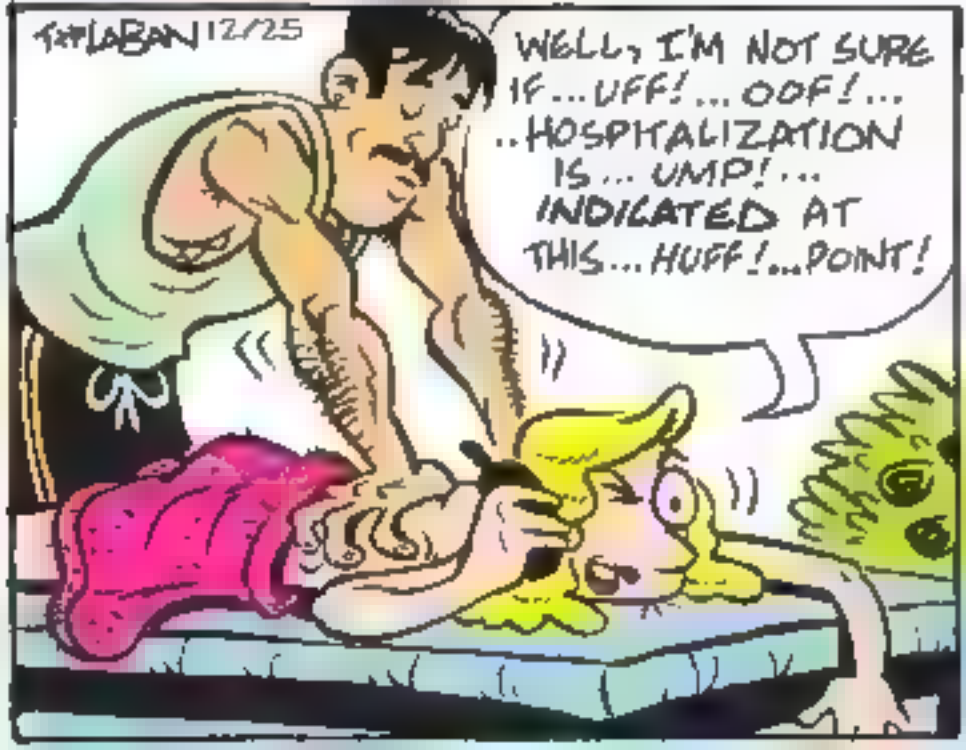

WHAT'S GOING ON, ABBY?
IT'S WORK, LEN. ONE OF MY THERAPY CLIENTS IS IN A MAJOR CRISIS!
12/24

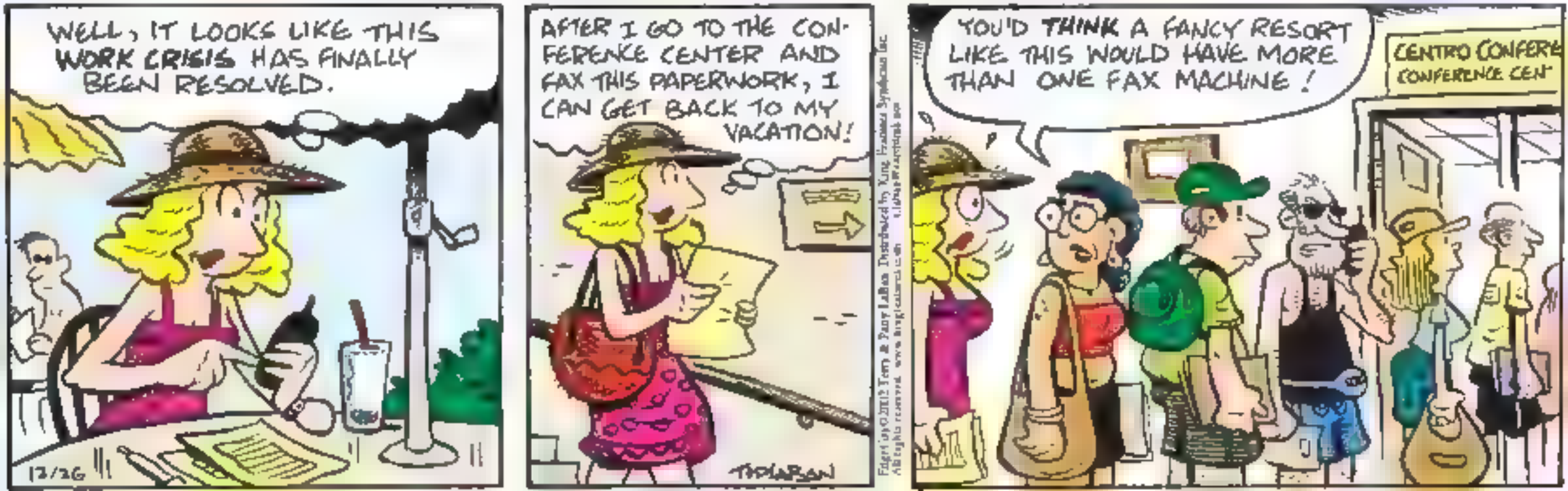
VACATION OR NO VACATION, I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THIS!
THAT'S TOO BAD. BUT AT LEAST HERE YOU CAN DO IT ON THE BEACH OVER A PIÑA COLADA.

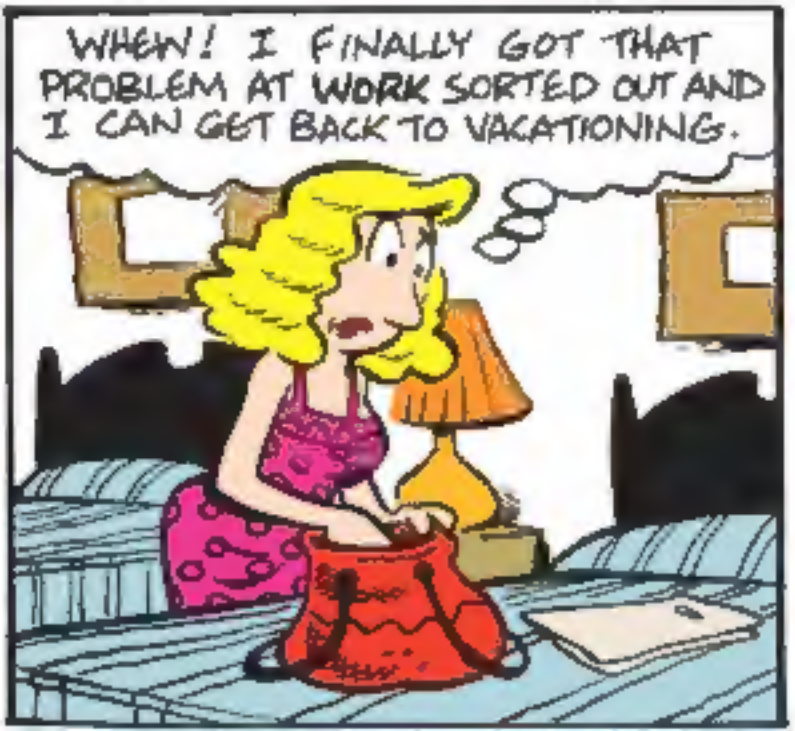

I LOST MY JOB... MY WIFE LEFT ME... THERE'S NOTHING GOOD IN MY LIFE ANYMORE!
I'M NOT SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK...

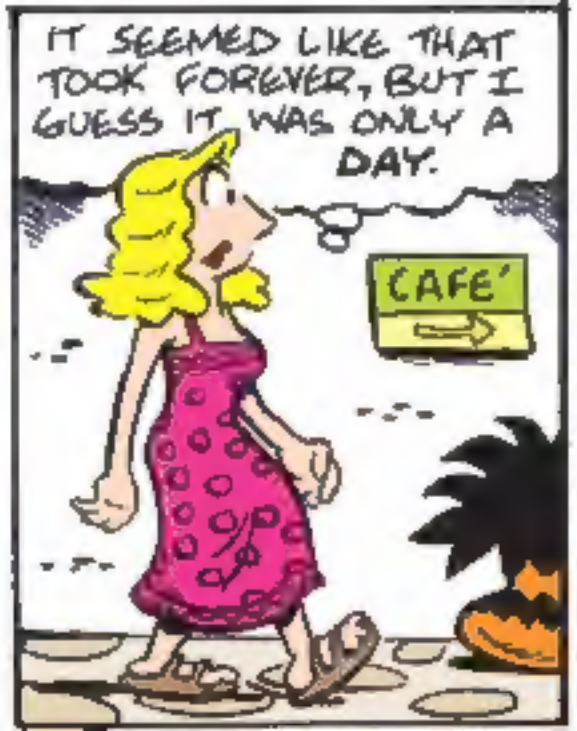
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WORK ON MY VACATION. IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM FAIR!

IT'S ONLY 15 MINUTES TILL THAT MASSAGE I SIGNED UP FOR. I'M NOT GOING TO CANCEL IT--I DESERVE SOME FUN TODAY!


LABAN 12/25
WELL, I'M NOT SURE IF...UFF!...OOF!... ..HOSPITALIZATION IS...UMP!... INDICATED AT THIS...HUFF!...POINT!


WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS WORK CRISIS HAS FINALLY BEEN RESOLVED.
12/26
AFTER I GO TO THE CONFERENCE CENTER AND FAX THIS PAPERWORK, I CAN GET BACK TO MY VACATION!
YOU'D THINK A FANCY RESORT LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE FAX MACHINE!
CENTRO CONFERE
CONFERENCE CEN





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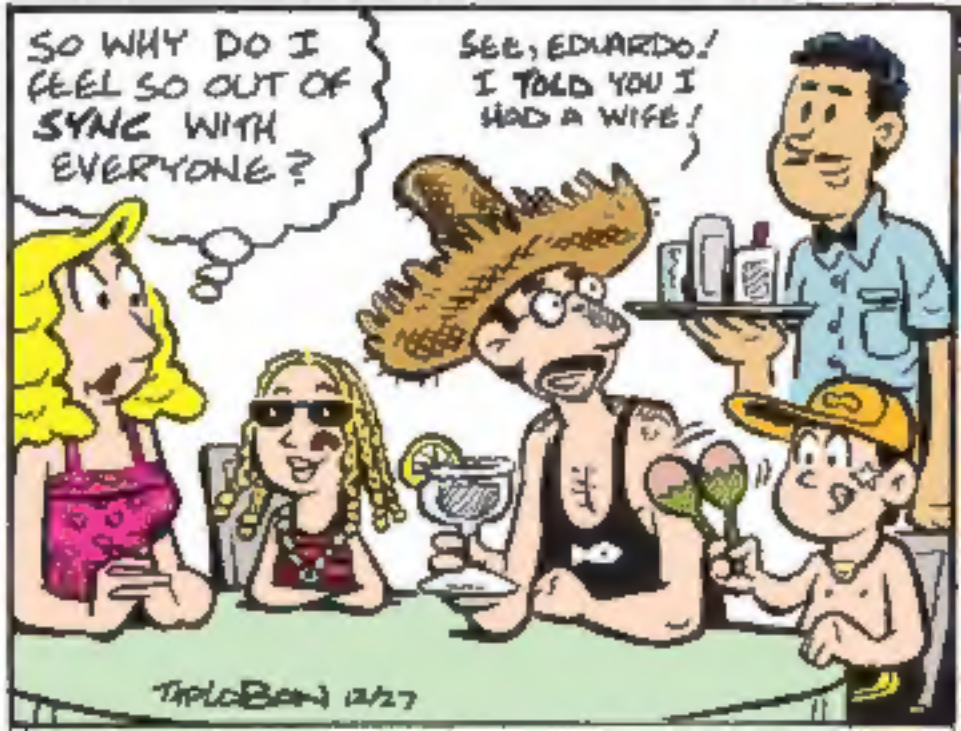

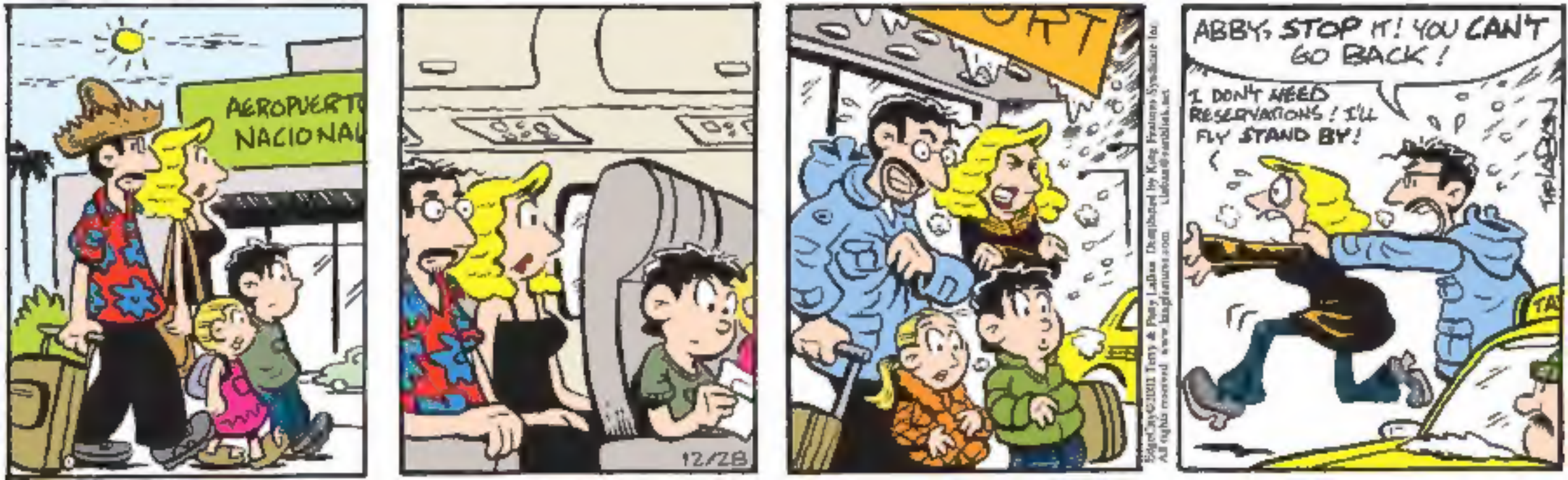
AEROPUERTO NACIONAL
12/28
ABBY, STOP IT! YOU CAN'T GO BACK!
I DON'T NEED RESERVATIONS! I'LL FLY STAND BY!

HI, LEN.
HEY, HENRY. GOT ANY PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE?
WSTER

JUST HANGING OUT WITH THE FAMILY.
US, TOO. WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER?
12-30

WE CAN POP SOME CORN, HAVE A COUPLE OF DRINKS. NO BIG DEAL.

ACTUALLY, IT'S KIND OF A FAMILY REUNION.
OH. WELL, IN THAT CASE, YOU'D BETTER BRING SOME BEER!

LOOK AT ALL THOSE CARS PULLING UP. SOMEONE ON OUR STREET IS HAVING A PARTY!
A BIG NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME AT ALL. I'M GLAD WE'RE HAVING A QUIET EVENING AT HOME!
I DID TELL YOU I ASKED SOME PEOPLE TO COME OVER, DIDN'T I?
DING DONG!
ACTUALLY, IT MAY HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A FEW.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
TAP LABAN